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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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KLIBI DEFINES EUROPEAN ROLE

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Feb 81 p 4

[Article by Aqeel Hashem]

[Text]

THE HAGUE, Feb. 19, (KUNA): The secretary general of the Arab League, Chadi Klibi, made it clear in his discussions with Dutch authorities last week in The Hague that West-European peace initiative will become a positive one only when the European Community succeeds in influencing American policy on the Middle East.

The question is: Can West Europe now really exert pressure on the US to convince the Reagan administration to adopt a more balanced and equitable policy in the Middle East?

The answer is yes considering the present economic situation in the West and the ever-growing American need for European cooperation.

Reagan recently described the future American economic prospects as catastrophic.

The West European economies are in no better situation. In England, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Denmark, hundreds of smaller enterprises are being liquidated monthly, and as a result millions of labourers are joining the unemployed lot.

In England, unemployment reached a figure of two and a half million. In Belgium, the high acceleration in unemployment has forced the government to impose sharp cuts on wages and labour unions are retaliating

by massive strikes. In Holland unemployment rose in one year from 200 thousand to 400 thousand. Despite industrial miracles, in West Germany things are starting to look gloomy.

America challenged

The economic situation being so shaky, is stimulating West Europe more and more to challenge America on international political issues.

Europe wants more mutual consultation and a more equal say in decision making. In this process, West Europe is counteracting the American drive towards confrontation with the Soviet Union, by building more economic bridges with the Eastern Bloc.

In spite of American warnings and threats against a Soviet-West European project to set up a 3000-mile gas pipeline between Siberia and West Europe, to supply the latter with 40 billion cubic metres of Siberian gas annually, European steel companies and banks are in consultation to finance and promote this gigantic project, ignoring American arguments that Western Europe's dependency on Soviet energy would be an enormous security risk.

In Holland, the country that presides at present over West

European council of ministers, the challenge to the US has gone much farther. Shell Holland and the General bank have formed a consortium this month with Dutch steel and technological equipment factories joining in this project, to buy 5 billion cubic metres of Siberian gas annually.

Nuclear site

The Dutch parliament was the first in Europe to reject placing American-made neutron bombs on European soil, and Dutch government maintained its policy to refuse the import of this bomb to Europe.

The Dutch conservative government has failed for two months to agree about a commercial deal with Taiwan, including 2 submarines because of parliamentary faction belonging to the government coalition preferred to lose the deal angering the Peking government and

accordingly suffering from a Chinese economic boycott at this economically crucial time.

Moreover, although the Reagan government expressed its wish to see the deal with Taiwan going through, to encourage other Western governments to sell weapons to Taiwan, yet this American wish was neglected by the Dutch parliament.

Soon the Dutch foreign minister, Van Der Klauw, will start the second stage of West European Middle East peace initiative.

In his capacity as president of the West European Ministerial Council, he will resume his contacts with governments involved in the Middle East issues.

He has already visited Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Algeria. This month he will visit Jordan, Syria and Iraq. Early in March he will visit the United States to discuss the Middle East issue with the American Foreign Ministry.

CSO: 4820

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

LIBYA, ABU DHABI CONTRACT DESALINATION PLANTS--The West German Krupp Group has won deutschmarks 40m (\$18.9m) worth of contracts for the supply of desalination plants to Abu Dhabi and Libya. These are the latest in a series of major orders booked from oil-producing Arab countries. A DM20m (\$9.4m) contract with Abu Dhabi is for a floating desalinators--effectively a barge that can be moored off the coast. It will be capable of purifying some 2.5m litres of drinking water daily--the first such order to be won by a German company. The remaining DM21m (\$9.9m) worth of orders are for stationary desalinators to supplement the water supply at Mersa el Brega, where a large petrochemical complex is being built. Both sets of orders should be completed by 1982 and are being carried out by the Krupp subsidiary Buckau-Walther. The Krupp steel and engineering group has recorded an unusual volume of orders from Arab oil producers so far this year. Last month the group announced that it is to lead a consortium to build an electro-steel works in Libya at a cost of DM1.5bn (\$708m) and it is also supplying processes to be used in another large Libyan steel project. Other orders have recently been received by Krupp subsidiaries from Oman. The rush of orders partly reflects what German exporters believe to be a new investment climate in oil producing countries. After some initial hesitation about using new oil revenues for infrastructural investment, Arab countries--notably in the Gulf and North Africa--are becoming more eager to conclude large contracts with western suppliers. Involved are petrochemical works, steel plants, dams, fertiliser factories, pipe and road construction. Competition is still stiff, largely from British and French constructors but also from the Japanese. Krupp executives report that the weakness of the deutschmark against other trading currencies has not yet had an impact on plant orders booked in the Arab world, but add that there could be increased price competition if sterling and the US dollar stay at high levels. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English 21 Mar 81 p 11]

KUWAITI AID TO LEBANON--Beirut, Feb 23 (KUNA)--Lebanon has received a 37-million-dollar aid from Kuwait, Finance Minister Ali Al-Khalil announced. Khalil said the Kuwaiti aid, received Friday, is part of the financial assistance decided by the Arab Summit Conference held in Tunis to help Lebanon overcome its difficulties. The Kuwaiti aid brings to 200 million dollars the total of Arab financial assistance received by Lebanon this year in accordance with resolutions of the Tunis Summit held in November 1979. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 7]

ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY, NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Jan 81 pp 4-5

[Article: "Islamic Solidarity"]

[Text] Former President Richard Nixon states in his book "The Real War" that "the key to the world's destiny has shifted from Europe to the Islamic world, to the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region in particular, and to the oil producing states of the Middle East in general." Nixon supports his claim by citing a number of historical developments that have taken place during his lifetime and those of other presidents beginning with Harry Truman and culminating with Jimmy Carter. Nixon can hardly be charged with exaggeration, for what he claims is a fact recognized by observers in both the East and the West. The Islamic world has traditionally been responsible for whetting the appetite of the East and the West. The last chapter in that world's history is yet to be written. It is very much like a classical Greek drama whose complexities continue to expand and deepen. In the words of Herman Eilts, a former U.S. ambassador to a number of the region's capitals, "the Islamic world, by virtue of its importance to their security, is the focus of greed of both the East and the West."

The modern drama of the Islamic world unfolded in stages. First came the creation of Israel in the heart of the Islamic world. The discovery of oil in the 50's and the subsequent establishment of OPEC were next. These were followed by the Iranian revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. On top of all this, ever since the mid-50's, there has been an American attempt to fill the so-called power vacuum created by the collapse of the British Empire in the region.

Eight hundred years ago, 'Izz al-Din ibn al-Athir wrote on the state of the Islamic world when it was attacked by the Tartars from the East and the Crusaders from the West. We summarize here what he said about the events of the year 618 Hegira:

"Never since the days of the prophet Muhammad have the Muslims been subjected to a crisis of this magnitude. The infidel Tartars have invaded our territory beyond the river (Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, as well as areas to the east of these countries). The Franks [a term used in Arabic to refer to Europeans] who have left their countries in the far north and west to invade our land have already reached Egypt. Our destiny is in the hands of God."

The goal of the Tarter invasion was to conquer Bukhara and the surrounding strategic area. The goal of the Crusaders was to conquer Jerusalem and Damascus and

to attack Egypt. In brief, the goal of the Tartars and the Crusaders was to squeeze the Islamic world between their combined forces. The Islamic world was seen as a barrier to a successful drive westward by the Tartars and to a drive eastward by the Crusaders.

The strategic importance of the Islamic world, not only geographically, but economically, militarily, as well as in terms of its uniqueness as an origin of human values is stressed in the Koran--"We have placed you [The Muslim world] in the middle of the nations, so that you may bear witness to the truth."

This, then, is the fate of the Islamic world: It is to serve as the heart of the entire world. The Arab world, and more specifically the Arabian Peninsula including the oil region of the Gulf is the nerve center of this heart. It is here that the wealth needed to sustain a modern civilization has been found. When God singled out the Islamic world to occupy the center among the nations, He gave it the means commensurate with that distinction. All the trials and tribulations of the Islamic world over the years, from internal wars and crises to external defeats are God's way of testing the mettle of the Muslim world. God intended the Islamic nation to be united, as befits a nation distinguished above others, one chosen to carry hope to mankind. God intended it to be located in the center so it may testify to the truth, that is, to serve, in modern terminology, as an international court of justice. Its strategic, economic and political importance are therefore intimately tied to its centrality among the nations.

The state of the Islamic world today is similar to what ibn al-Athir described eight centuries ago. The names of the actors may have changed, but the goal of the combatants has not. The Islamic world remains the center of the East-West conflict. But whereas the conflicts of yore were settled by force and invasion, today's battles are waged in the form of competition in the artistic, intellectual, political and economic arenas. They are what we now call ideological battles. The Islamic world remains the coveted prize, however. Whoever wins control of it, wins control of the world. Whether the combatants are Communists or Tartars, colonialists or capitalists is of no significance.

The Islamic world today is in a state of political, social, economic and military disorder. The Islamic states themselves are partly responsible for the chaos, but much of the disarray is the result of the East-West conflict. One author refers to two types of conflict over the region: horizontal and vertical. The real problem is that most of the Islamic states deny that a problem exists. A few others underestimate the potential danger. It is as though the problems would somehow disappear. Some blame the horizontal disarray on the colonialists who left in their wake poverty, ignorance and division. The common belief is that these problems will disappear gradually as a result of economic and educational progress. Proponents of this theory point to the wealth of the Islamic world, to "the oil gushing everywhere." While that may be so, it might be wise to remember that being at the center means more than a geographic location. It means natural resources, steady sources of water, fertile agricultural land, extensive pastures, and rich forests.

While this analysis is sound, we must note that while the Islamic world is playing its proper role in the context of the world's economy, it is not doing what it

should on the Islamic level. Recognition of this deficiency has prompted the Islamic world to examine the facts of today's economic life more closely. As a result, the Organization of Islamic States has carried out a number of studies, held a number of wide-ranging meetings and came out with a unified economic strategy. The Islamic Summit meeting to be held this week in Ta'if is expected to debate and approve this plan. The Ta'if meeting will not limit itself to a discussion of the Islamic world's political and international problems, but will decide on the adoption of a comprehensive economic strategy. The opportunity to approve an economic strategy of this magnitude is a historical rarity indeed. The summit meeting will be held in Saudi Arabia, which analysts view as the intermediary between two Islamic worlds: one rich and extremely Rightist, the other poor and extremely Leftist. Saudi Arabia's centrist political orientation makes it the logical place for such a meeting. The country stands at the center, and the center seeks to unite rather than divide. Observers are thus optimistic that the summit will result in an Islamic and Arab reconciliation. Saudi Arabia is determined that the Mecca [should be Ta'if] summit shall debate only those things that tend to unite the Islamic world at least economically at this stage. The Saudis will point to the example of the European countries, which not only managed to set their historical differences aside, but succeeded in creating the European Common Market. For the Islamic world, a little progress in this direction will be the first step in the search for self-identity. When the Islamic world finds itself economically, it is bound to wake up to its political reality. This, without a doubt, is the most critical problem facing the Islamic world. It must be noted, however, that much of the danger stems from sources outside the Islamic world, principally the competition of the superpowers over this strategic part of the Middle East, and more specifically over the nerve center of this region, the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf--the sources of oil.

The Islamic world today is the site of confrontations, disputes and wars: The U.S.-Soviet confrontation, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Arab-Iranian dispute, and the Iran-Iraq war.

The Mecca Summit can, and the people expect that it will, resolve the Arab-Iran dispute and the Iran-Iraq war. It can resolve the Syrian-Iraqi and the Syrian-Jordanian disputes. These are transient problems which will disappear when the summit and the Organization of Islamic States confirm that they are economic-political rather than sectarian-religious in nature. This approach to a solution was attempted several years ago by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when he insisted that President Sulayman Franjiyyah address an Islamic summit meeting to dispel the notion that the [Lebanese] conflict was religious in nature, a confrontation between a Christian West and an Islamic East.

Mecca's invitation to Iran to take part in the summit for the purpose of resolving the Iraq-Iran war was motivated by the same spirit, namely, to underscore the non-sectarian nature of the Organization of Islamic States. While Muslims are aware of the Arab-Zionist conflict, they nevertheless condemn those who attempt to portray the Iraq-Iran war as religious in nature. The fact is that both Iraqis and Iranians face Mecca five times a day in prayer.

The entire Islamic world has supported the Islamic revolution of Iran because the revolution represented an economic-political-military challenge to the

colonialist West. The Islamic revolution, from that perspective, was acceptable to the Islamic world because it was part of that world's search for self-identity, unfortunately, however, the revolution failed to maintain its initial character, and in practice soon succumbed to the same kind of mistakes that are characteristic of the major powers. It began, for example, to cast greedy looks in the direction of Arab and Islamic lands. It began to instigate revolution everywhere. It antagonized everyone all at once. It erroneously viewed itself as an ideal model to be imitated everywhere without hesitation. It did take time to reflect on its enemies' arsenal. It declared war on the entire world before it has settled its own internal war. It failed to clean house before attempting to strike outside its own territory. The danger now is that Iran may use its rejection to attend the Islamic summit meeting as a pretext for divorcing itself from its responsibilities to the Islamic world. Should that happen, then Iran would become unwittingly a football in the hands of the major powers as they compete for control of the smaller countries.

Iran's refusal to take part in the Islamic summit meetings will lend credibility to the claim that the Islamic world is beset by the same kind of division that has traditionally sapped the strength of the non-aligned world. One of the most important factors contributing to the impotence of the non-aligned world is the extreme pressure exerted by the two superpowers. The Islamic world now faces similar pressures. Some Islamic states have dual roles. They belong to the non-aligned world and to the conference of Islamic States. This dual role puts these states in the unhappy position of having to champion the Moscow line before the Conference of Islamic States rather than to push for a truly neutral, middle of the road policy. The majority of states in this category are Arab, and they all have Iran's political support. Not only have those states invited the Russian bear into the Arab orchard, but they are actively trying to convince Pakistan and Iran to accept the idea of coexistence with their Russian neighbor in Afghanistan, despite the fact that the Soviet Union is one of the three powers--Moscow, Washington and Tel Aviv--that threaten the security of the Islamic world.

Whether some people [leaders or states] are willing to recognize the danger of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan or not, the fact is that Moscow intends to add the entire Middle East, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and even some parts of India's border territory to its security zone. This design is evident in Moscow's declarations which claim that such a move is necessary in view of the Soviet Union's geographic security needs. The Soviet Union attaches a great deal of interest to [political] developments in this region. On the other hand, the American threat [to counteract any Russian move] is a reality. Washington looks upon the Middle East and countries to the east of this region as being of strategic importance not only to Western Europe, but to Japan and the U.S. itself. The U.S. has traditionally viewed the belt of Islamic countries along the Soviet Union's southern border as a barrier against the spread of communism into southwest Asia and Africa.

The Soviet Union has adopted the strategy traditionally associated with Western Europe in the early days of colonialism. Unable to penetrate the heart of the Middle East, the Soviet strategy has shifted to nibbling at the edges of the region, Aden, Libya, Ethiopia, and, finally, Afghanistan. Great Britain, France, Holland and other European countries have at one time attempted to gain control of the Islamic world by going around Africa. The Soviet Union is trying the same strategy.

The U.S. has a different approach. It views itself as heir to the mantle of both the British and French colonialist empires. It has a real presence in the region in the form of the State of Israel. American bases are beginning to sprout in Somalia and Oman. (Although there are no American bases in Egypt, the U.S. has special arrangements with the Egyptian Government.)

Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have their "lobbies" in the Islamic world. The American lobby is presently less influential principally because of U.S. policy regarding Israel's occupation of Arab territory and its annexation of Jerusalem. The U.S. is well aware that these twin obstacles must be removed if it is to succeed in penetrating the Islamic world. This, indeed, is the reason behind the American attempt to separate the Arab-Israeli conflict from the other problems of the Islamic world. But the Islamic world at present is preoccupied with the more immediate conflict with Israel. Islamic solidarity on this issue has grown significantly as a result of the annexation of Jerusalem. The Islamic world, moreover, is unhappy with America's role in negotiating the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The Ta'if summit will be dominated by the issue of declaring a jihad [holy war], an idea first disclosed last August by Prince Fahd when Israel went too far in its defiance of world opinion by annexing Jerusalem.

Briefly, then, the Palestine problem has produced gains for the Soviet lobby at the expense of the American one. Before the Afghanistan invasion, the Islamic world was torn between Moscow and Washington, but mostly toward Moscow. After Afghanistan, the balance began to tilt in favor of America. But the Palestine issue has, once again, restored the tilt toward Moscow.

The foreign ministers of the Islamic states met in January, 1980 in Islamabad, Pakistan, to condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It is noteworthy that there has been some retreat from that strongly anti-Soviet position. Support for the Afghan cause is now mostly emotional, compassion for a defeated people. Some Islamic states have even called for negotiations with Moscow and Kabul to find a political solution! Political observers ascribe the retreat to two causes.

First, beginning in January, 1980, a large number of Muslim states, especially Pakistan and some of the Gulf states, became convinced that America was either unwilling or unable to challenge the Russians in the Middle East and Southwest Asia. Pakistan, in particular, could not procure sufficient military aid from the U.S. to defend itself in the event of further Soviet aggression. Convinced that the Russians were in Afghanistan to stay, Pakistan had no choice but to seek accommodation. It is no surprise, then, that Pakistan should become the outspoken champion of those who seek a political solution with Moscow. Second--and this was best explained by Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud ibn Faysal--America's influence in the Middle East will always remain limited as long as it continues to ally itself with Israel. America simply cannot make a headway while maintaining two contradictory policies: opposition to the Russian occupation of Pakistan and support for the Israeli occupation of Arab lands. A number of analysts claim that the issues of Afghanistan and Palestine have placed the Islamic world at equal distances from America and the Soviet Union, despite the fact that the Arabs and Muslims are aware of the extent of the differences between the two crises. Those who espouse this view claim that there is no choice

but to settle for a political solution to the Afghanistan crisis. It is important to note here that the party most responsible for seeking a middle-of-the-road solution is the non-aligned world, which so far, has done nothing to oppose the occupation of one of its member states by one of the major powers. The non-aligned world has opted to play the Soviet card in the Afghanistan game. While playing the Soviet card in the Palestine problem is understandable, it is inappropriate to do the same in Afghanistan, for such a tactic, according to an Arab proverb, "lets the enemy act as a judge."

The Islamic world has lost faith in the credibility of both the Soviet Union and the U.S. Russia, supposedly a friend of the Third World, has invaded Afghanistan, a country that threatens neither Russia's security nor that of its southern border. The truth is that Moscow, sensing a power vacuum in Iran and the Gulf region following the removal of the Shah, decided on a quick leap in the direction of the Gulf. Filling the power vacuum is an American ploy which the U.S. employs to justify its presence in every former colony of the European powers. In this respect, Moscow and Washington are on a par.

The similarity in the methods both utilize to fill power vacuums does not mean that the two superpowers were faced with identical problems. Hafiz Allah Amin's government, for example, was not hostile to the Soviet Union or to communism. While one-half of that country's government leaned to the extreme Left--toward communism--the other half was moderate in its political orientation. Furthermore, reactionary conservatism has already disappeared with the removal of King Muhammad Zahir Shah's government. The important thing is that, contrary to Soviet claims, Hafiz Allah's Afghanistan posed even less danger to the Soviet Union's southern flank than did the neutral government of Muhammad Zahir Shah. Moscow, of course, refused to admit that fact because it wanted a totally communist government in Afghanistan.

This development marked a turning point in the Islamic world's view of Moscow. It became convinced that what Western propaganda has been trumpeting about Moscow's expansionist ambitions and greed to gain access to warm waters is really true, the only difference lying in the fact that the focus of Soviet interest has shifted from the control of strategic territory to the control of oil resources. While Tsarist Russia sought access to the warm waters of the Mediterranean, Soviet Russia is looking for access to the Gulf's oil.

Many analysts and states have equated Moscow's betrayal of Hafiz Allah Amin to America's betrayal of the Shah of Iran. No one in the Islamic world doubted for a moment that Washington was able to defend the Shah's government. Indeed many Americans accused the Carter Administration of turning its back on the Shah. Some went as far as to charge Carter with helping to bring down the Shah's government. According to this group, Carter's actions were motivated by a theory attributed to [former] National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski purporting that religion alone was the only barrier to the spread of Soviet ideology in the world. Brzezinski supposedly convinced the American president that the loss of Iran would not be catastrophic. Those who accept this explanation for the collapse of the Shah's government have not only researched but confirmed this point in every case in which America has abandoned one of its most trusted allies.

When the Islamic world became convinced that it could trust neither Moscow nor Washington, it began a search for self-identity. It became aware that security was not to be found only in the division of spheres of influence between the two giants, but also in the manner in which a state is treated by other friendly states.

The best solution to the Islamic world's dilemma is to seek a pan-Islamic solidarity, one that would pave the way for collective Islamic security. [The Ta'if] Summit "is the first step," as President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan put it, "to put teeth in the Islamic world's mouth."

9063

CSO: 4802

BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS SUBMITTED TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 24 Jan 81 p 13

[Article: "Islamic Conference Accepts Document Detailing Human Rights"]

[Text] The document titled "Human Rights Under Islam" is, perhaps, the most important one submitted to the Islamic Conference recently held in Mecca. The document, which is not expected to come up for debate or to be listed on the agenda, is one of several that had been approved last December during a seminar held in Kuwait. The Paris-based AL-MUSTAQBAL hereby reproduces the text of the document as it appeared in the Tunisia-based AL-MUSTAQBEL (A publication by the same name issued recently without our permission). Why do we do this? Because we believe the document is one of the more important ones submitted to the conference. The document deals with human rights, something that does not happen frequently at rulers' conferences.

Following are [excerpts] from the document.

- Article 14

Every person has the right to move freely and to select a place of residence within or outside his native country. In case of persecution each person has a right to seek asylum in another country, and that country has an obligation to help him find a place where he may live in security.

- Article 15

Every person has a right to gainful employment. The state or society has an obligation to insure that right to every person capable of working. Every person must be free to choose a suitable occupation, one that will insure his interest and the interest of society. Every worker is entitled to work in a safe hazard-free environment, and to be free of exploitation, harm, and demands exceeding his ability. He is entitled to just, timely and equitable compensation commensurate with his job, as well as to wage increases and equal consideration for promotion. The worker has an obligation to be loyal to his employer and to do his best on the job. In the event of disputes between workers and employers, the state has an obligation to settle the dispute in a fair and binding manner.

- Article 18

A. Each person has a right to reap the benefit of his accomplishments in the scientific, literary, artistic or technical fields, and to safeguard any monetary

Interest accruing to him from these accomplishments, provided such accomplishments are in harmony with the moral code and the Shari'a [Islamic religious laws].

B. No person's financial assets may be confiscated under any circumstances.

- Article 19

A. It is the obligation of the state to provide, within its means, adequate health and social cure services to all citizens.

B. The state has an obligation to assure every person the right to provide a decent standard of living for himself and his dependents, including adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care and other basic necessities.

- Article 20

A. Every person has a right to live free of fear, secure in his family, honor and material possessions.

B. Every person has a right to privacy in his home life and to independence in his financial affairs. He may not be spied upon, placed under surveillance or, interfered with in the act of communicating with others, nor may his reputation be damaged. Furthermore, the state has a duty to protect him against arbitrary interference. All these rights are in accordance with al-Sharia.

- Article 21

A. Every person is solely responsible for his actions. No one may be charged with a crime or punished without a writ.

B. The accused is innocent until his guilt is established in a fair trial, during which he shall be entitled to all legal means of self defense. In the event of dubious evidence, the accused shall be given the benefit of the doubt.

- Article 22

No one may be arrested, confined, deported or otherwise punished without legal justification. No one may be subjected to physical or psychological torture or treated in a manner that is cruel or demeaning to human dignity. Neither may the state pass emergency legislation to permit such treatment.

- Article 23

A. Absolutely no one, relative or otherwise, may be held responsible for the actions of another, regardless of the circumstances.

B. Under no circumstances may the state take a hostage in order to compel a fugitive to surrender. The taking of hostages is expressly forbidden by Islamic religious laws.

- Article 24

A. Subject only to the constraints of Islamic religious laws, every person has a right to form an opinion and to express the same by any legal means available to him.

B. Every person has a right to preach righteousness and denounce evil and to join other individuals or groups in exercising this right. Furthermore, the state and society are duty-bound to assist and protect him in this endeavor.

C. The right to be informed is vital to society. The media may neither be exploited nor misused.

- Article 25

A. From the head of government to the man on the street, all people are equal before the law.

B. Every person has a right to resort to court for the redress of grievances.

- Article 26

A. A free society is essential to human rights. The reigns of power are a trust whose exploitation or misuse is absolutely forbidden.

B. Consistent with the principles of al-Shawra [consultation] every person has a right to partake in selecting, overseeing and holding his rulers to account in accordance with Islamic religious laws.

C. Every person has a right to participate directly or indirectly in shaping the course of government in general. Furthermore, every person has a right to assume governmental office in accordance with the laws.

9063

CSO: 4802

REINSURANCE CORPORATION PLANNED

Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 20 Feb 81 p 3

[Article by K. P. Mohanan]

[Text]

THE second general assembly of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce which just concluded here has welcomed in principle the establishment of an Islamic re-insurance corporation.

The proposal was made by a study group specially formed to explore the possibilities of independent re-insurance facility for the member countries. Secretary General of the Chamber, Sami Onaran (Turkey) told Kuwait Times.

The first expert group meeting on re-insurance will be held in Dacca this year.

The three-day general assembly meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the Chamber, Sheikh Ismail Abu Dewood of Saudi Arabia.

Representatives of the chambers from 24 Islamic countries and four Islamic organisations attended the con-

ference which was inaugurated by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah at Kuwait Sheraton.

OBJECTIVES

Bangladesh delegate Shamsul Alam, highlighted the salient features of the study on re-insurance problems and possibilities. He told Kuwait Times that the ultimate aim of the proposed Islamic re-insurance corporation would be a system through which the Islamic countries could liberate their trade from the clutches of the Western re-insurance monopolies.

The Chairman of the expert group on shipping, Mustapha K. Gokal analysed the negligible role being played at present by the Islamic countries in world shipping despite the available opportunities in the field. He appreciated the creation of the Islamic Shipowners Association and emphasised the urgent need for the es-

tablishment of an Islamic shipping company in the field of bulk cargoes.

Another major issue, discussed during the general assembly meeting, was the formation of an Islamic Common Market. After hearing the explanations of Bangladesh delegation and noting the statement of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) representatives that this subject would be discussed during the seventh Islamic Commission on economic, cultural and social affairs of the ICO to be held in Jakarta on 30th March, the Chamber general assembly decided to follow up the matter jointly with OIC.

The General Assembly has elected Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Sagar president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as the Chairman of the Islamic Chamber. The conference also elected Momar Souraing of Senegal and Djanamar Adjan of Indonesia as vice-chairmen.

SEIZED U.S. DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO BEHESHTI

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Feb 81 p 2

[Text] Yesterday morning, Dr Mohammad Hosseyn Beheshti head of the Supreme Court participated in a press conference and answered questions posed by internal and foreign reporters on various topics.

The first question was posed by a PARS News Agency reporter who asked Dr Beheshti's views about the revolution and the imposed war.

Dr Beheshti stated: "My brothers holding the same views and I have felt and will always feel responsible that the success of the Islamic revolution in Iran depends on clear Islamic ideas, projects coordinated, defined and comprehensive plans, and organized, coordinated, fast-working and decisive executive power. I feel that we can play a role and more or less fulfill a part of this duty. Prior to the victory of the revolution we made efforts in this context and presented to our dear peoples, certain publications on various topics.

"After the victory of the revolution, our constant presence in affairs resulted in our facing new challenges which we had not faced earlier. We have been trying to find clear Islamic and social answers to these questions. During the past few months we have prepared a condensed booklet of what we had gathered in this context and we hope that on 1 Esfand [20 February] on the occasion of the second anniversary of the announcement of the establishment of the Islamic Republican Party, this material will be published in the party's newspaper. In this booklet, we have defined clear positions about the farsightedness of Islam on intellectual, creedal and practical substructural issues, particularly on genuine Islamic ways of the self-building of human beings, on internal policies and how to manage a society, the role of various councils, the role of the administrative organization inherited from the past, the role of revolutionary institutions, the cultural and educational revolution, judicial policies, economic policies, important and complex economic problems, basic principles of relations between agricultural and industrial production, manner of distribution and supply of goods, commerce, problems related to ownership of property, exploitation, the banking system and so on, as well as foreign policies and clear and defined positions to be pursued in this context. Actually, the clear-cut position of the Islamic Republican Party on substructural intellectual, practical and programming policies, have been defined.

"I hope that this work may effectively assist in better clarifying future policies and better defining options on many topics."

Nationalization of Foreign Trade:

Mardukhi Kordestani, NABARD-MELLAT reporter asked: "Liberals, capitalist and big merchants are trying and striving to hinder realization of the project for nationalization of foreign trade. What measures will the Islamic Republic Government take in this context?"

The head of the Supreme Court answered: "It is natural that all revolutionary measures would meet with certain opposition and it is natural that revolutionary government risen from the people would continue to implement the constitution and meet the demands of the general public."

Arrest and Trial of an Accused:

A question was posed about the arrest of Ne'matollah Jazayeri, one of the leaders of the Revolutionary Workers Party and a worker in R.O.VAK battery plant who had been apprehended 4 months ago.

Dr Beheshti stated: "The revolutionary attorney general's office has been notified about the arrest of this person. According to the constitution, they must make the charge known immediately upon arrest and they have said that this had been done. Then they must make preliminary preparations for court hearings, which they are now doing.

"Thus, according to their report, everything that has been done so far has been in accordance with legal principles. Whether he will be condemned or not cannot be determined by anybody except the court that will be established. Thus, we must wait for the determination and verdict of the court."

Clause "j" of Land Reform:

"Ayatollah Meshkini in a speech declared that after the conclusion of the war, clause "j" [Sixth Letter of Persian Alphabet]" related to land distribution would be implemented. Do you and the government hold the same views as Ayatollah Meshkini?"

Dr Beheshti in answering this question said: "As you know, I think that problems whose preconditions have not materialized should be left to such times when those conditions have been realized so that when we make decisions, we may implement them at the same time."

Meeting Foreign Ambassadors:

In answer to a question about meeting foreign ambassadors, Dr Beheshti stated: "The basic issue is related to four British prisoners who have been under arrest for several months. The judicial organ has been investigating their case and is on the verge of taking decisions. As there are also several Iranian prisoners under arrest in England, we have also talked with them about this issue. Of course, they also talk about general problems related to relations between their governments and the Islamic Republic, which is usual in such meetings.

Collecting Books of Ayatollah Taleqani:

A question was posed about collecting the books of Father Taleqani.

Dr Beheshti in answer to this question, stated: "You have probably read the answer given in this respect by the canonical judge of Mianeh. Our nation must be alert, because today certain people are trying to utilize such dear, beloved and respected Islamic figures as Ayatollah Taleqani in order to excite sedition. But the sincere and heartfelt esteem of Ayatollah Taleqani held by the Imam and the clergy is clear and would not permit anybody to exploit this in order to create a problem or excite sedition. I hope that the vigilance and alertness of the youth and all the people would eliminate any grounds for conspiracies, as it has done up to the present and would not permit utilization of the respect and great social esteem of an honorable scholar in engineering conspiracies.

Selection of Minister of Justice:

A question was posed about the failure to select a minister of justice and the declaration of the Guardian Council to the effect that the minister of justice is not responsible to answer the questions of deputies.

In response, Dr Beheshti said: "This is a clear legal problem. The minister is subjected to questions within the jurisdiction of his responsibilities. According to the definition of the limits of the duties and authority of the minister of justice determined by the principles of the constitution, particularly Clause 160, and defined by the Guardian Council, the minister of justice is responsible for issues related to liaison between the judicial, legislative and executive powers and in this context can be questioned and impeached by deputies.

"Other problems which do not fall within the realm of his responsibility revert to the responsibility of the Guardian Council. It is natural that the constitution has not made any provisions regarding the questioning of the Supreme Judicial Council. Of course, it is possible to obtain information.

"The question is a judicial matter and has a specific law. It must be answered within 10 days or be subjected to interpellation. It is clear that impeachment of the Supreme Judicial Council by Majles representatives is meaningless. Since the Superior Judicial Council is not elected by parliament, it cannot be subject to impeachment by it. Anyhow, this is a question between the judiciary and the other powers which is to be clarified by a review of the Guardian Council.

"But, as far as the issue of the minister of justice is concerned, a minister of justice will be appointed and the limits of his responsibility will be in relation to the judiciary power.

Surrender of Illegally Armed People:

A question was asked about the declaration of Kurdistan's Office of the Public Prosecutor regarding giving a letter of pardon to armed people who surrender.

In response, Dr Beheshti stated: As you know, in Islam there are provisions in many cases about criminals who have committed general crimes but not crimes against persons. In cases where general crimes have been committed, if the criminal repents before going to the judge, in certain cases, granting pardon is obligatory and in certain other cases the judge can pardon him. Thus, these letters of pardon are granted within the substructure of Islamic judicial and penal laws."

Conflict Against America!

A question was posed why after 4 months of imprisonment, Mr Jazayeri's charges have not been clarified. Would it not be better if instead of remaining in prison, this person who is a revolutionary element, were sent to the war front to fight against America and Iraq?

In response to this question Dr Beheshti said: "As regards the issue of war with America these groups should try not to create obstacles for the government of the Islamic Republic, cause disturbances in the country, encourage workers to stage strikes, not create incidents here and there, spread lies, fabrications and rumors. We do not need them to go to the war front. But as far as this person is concerned, it is being said that he had participated in struggle abroad against the previous regime. We laud all who had fought against the previous regime. Our nation also appreciates them. However, you know that struggle against the previous regime in the past does not justify any illegalities in the Islamic Republic regime after the revolution. They did not apprehend this person because of his past deeds, he is being prosecuted on charges of his activities after the victory of the revolution and I do not know precisely what the charges are. Anyhow, the revolutionary courts do not arrest people who had participated in the revolution on charges of their prior roles in the revolution. This cannot be a charge. It is an admirable act. If a person is prosecuted, it is on charges of accusations or crimes committed after the victory of the revolution relating to order in the Islamic Republic. It is the court which determines, it is possible that the court may investigate and clear him of charges."

Dr Beheshti added: "You will soon learn about the clear and decisive position of the Superior Judicial Council on relations with parties and different social groups in the mass media. Maybe it has been published, if not, it will soon be published and declared. Anyhow, the position of the Supreme Judicial Council in relations to groups in accordance with the constitution and other laws, has been defined. Political groups which observe these positions, determined by the constitution and laws approved after the revolution enjoy and will continue to enjoy respect for the freedom and activities of their party members. Judicial organs will only prosecute those people who are accused of violating those standards.

"I repeat that as I do not possess sufficient information about the charges against him, I state that the court will decide whether the charges brought against him are relevant or not. If they are irrelevant, then he will be cleared and freed and if they are relevant, he will be condemned and the reasons for the verdict would be made known to the general public.

Exposures by Students:

The question was posed that recently students following the line of the Imam, revealed certain matters in which references were made to revolutionary institutions and so on, but nothing was mentioned about you personally and the party. By considering the topics seen in the publication of agitators against you, what is your opinion about this affair? Do documents exist which have not been revealed?

In response, Dr Beheshti said: "There is no doubt that all those who had been active during those months have certain things to say about me. It would be appropriate if anything about any person or group available is published so that our nation would clearly know their position vis-a-vis people, personalities, groups, newspapers and parties. So it would be right if all items about the Islamic Republic Party, the Islamic Republic newspaper and the founders of the Islamic Republic Party existing in the spy nest are collected, published in a booklet and put at the disposal of all people. About the booklet, I had not read it and I did not know what it contained but they brought one of them for me and then I read it. To this publication I say: I knew earlier some of what had been written about me personally. It would be better if everything were written together, so that it would become clear as to whom America sees ready to be deceived or influenced.

"According to their own confessions, who is the person known as an element who cannot even be deceived. In a report, the following sentence is seen: "Problems of Iran and America were discussed with him." Of course, I was one of the responsible authorities of the country (at that time I was in charge of the Revolutionary Council and it was natural that they should talk to me) "and he is a person who cannot be deceived." It would be good if this booklet containing these writings about me, the party, the organization and founders of the party are published so that issues are clarified."

Resignation of President:

The question was asked: One of the daily morning newspapers has written in its editorial column that the president intends to resign because of lack of success in his work. Is this news true? If not, why are such false rumors being spread?

Dr Beheshti answered this question, which was the last, stating: "I have no information in this context and have not read this item. On the whole, as the imam has repeatedly said, all newspapers have the duty of withholding publication of all topics promoting undue anxiety, apprehension and excitement in society. I hope that all newspapers will observe this principle."

9797

CSO: 4906

IRAN

U.S. SAID TO BE EAGER FOR IRAN ITSELF, NOT HOSTAGES

Tehran MARDOM in Persian 26 Jan 81 pp 1-2

[Text] While the ink of "Algerian" agreements concerning the American obligations with regard to the freedom of the "hostages" had not been dried and the airplanes carried the American spies and conspirators posing as diplomats had not landed in the Wiesbadan airport, the imperialism led by America, once more showed its dirty and ugly face. The great falsifying and false-reporting propaganda machine of the imperialism began operation. Tears came to the eyes of the "humane" Carter when he found the spies with their thick necks thin like pipe and their fleshy faces lean. Brezezinski "had predicted" that the "hostages" following their freedom would tell several stories concerning their mistreatment by the Iranians, and the "hostages" after meeting with "experts" began talking about these "stories." One of them said that he had been placed in solitary confinement for months with his hands and feet tied. Another "revealed" that every morning at breakfast time he was aimed at by an empty gun and the trigger pulled. The third one had no doubt that he had been subjected to mock execution several times and every time he fainted because of fear. The "officials" thought about receiving compensation from Iran for these "stories." These "officials" found it necessary to "review" the "Algerian" agreements. Reagan implied considered this "review" to be necessary because the "American people want the Algerian accord to be canceled;" and Richard Helms, former American chief spy, concluded that "Iran is moving toward communism and it must be saved." The shameless propaganda about false "savagely torturing" of the "hostages" publicized by the "imperialism news," accompanied with the active involvement of the former and present officials of the American government pursue two objectives simultaneously: one is to set up the grounds for rebargaining the "Algerian" agreements in order to find loopholes to escape obligations accepted by America and the other objective is to justify the continuation of pressure put on Iran and possibly a military attack against Iran which America does not want to cease preparing.

With respect to the first objective, that is the nonperformance of obligations, or simply stated, the stealing of part of the Iranian assets, it must be said that if this international gangster takes such actions, it will bear grave consequences in the international arena, because not unlike a defrauding dealer, rather like a thief who in the daylight steals the other's money, America will be more disgraced in international levels so that even its puppet regimes cannot afford not to become suspicious of their "master." This would be a new motive which would cause the masses dominated by America to rise and fight with more anger against this biggest captor of the age and against the puppet regimes imposed on them. However, the second objective, namely the continuation of pressure and preparation for possible

military attack on Iran, the justification of which has been emphasized with more intensity by the unrestrained recent propaganda is not a new one. This is the objective which was pursued even prior to the victory of the revolution at the time when the hope of America for changing the direction of the Iranian revolution had not turned into a disappointment; this objective was specifically set forth by Brzezinski and was expressed by Sullivan the former American ambassador in Iran in his disclosures. This plan was followed by the (Tabbas) event, the direct military attack and thereafter by the coup d'etat of 9 July and since none of these plans produced any result, it was followed by the Saddam's military attack.

At the present time 6 500 soldiers of the Rapid Deployment Force are rehearsing in the U.S. state of Florida, under conditions similar to those of the "area of operation" for a "flashlike" military attack. Thirty-two American warships carrying 18,000 men belong to the Rapid Deployment Force, situated in the "area of operation" (waters of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman and Masirah Island are prepared to receive order to attack. The American military bases in the Egypt, Kenya, Somalia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Diego Garcia, are presently placed on military alert. All these which were previously justified to express America's anger against "hostage taking" are now being justified to express America's anger against "torture of the hostages."

What the Iranian revolutionary forces paid attention to and repeatedly stated, that "America wants Iran, not the hostages" now has become more obvious. The criminal America makes excuses to justify its worldwide expansionism policy and if it does not have any specific pretext, it resorts to "Russian danger," its usual fictitious story. If no specific pretext exists, America, according to Richard Helms, will attempt to "save" Iran from the "danger of communism" as it did once on 19 August 1953 with the help of Mr Richard Helms, who was the chief of the "Dirty Operation" department of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and "saved" Iran. Therefore America wants Iran, nothing less.

Of course, America, regardless of whose administration is in power, Carter, Reagan, or any other animal, by threat of direct attack or use of other kinds of pressures and counterrevolutionary conspiracies carried out inside Iran will try to change Iran's revolution, put a "moderate" (liberal) government in power, and to slowly and "crawlingly" return to Iran to reestablish its domination; because direct military attack is like playing with fire which could quickly turn into a conflagration to burn the existence of imperialism. However imperialism is imperialism, invasion and use of direct force is in its nature and adventurism particularly at the end is a "definite line" in its policy. Therefore if America's hope for a "moderate" government turns into disappointment (which will be so due to the efforts made by the heroic and revolutionary masses of Iran under leadership of Imam Khomeini), it is not absolutely improbable that it [America] will play the insane game of playing with fire.

Therefore we must be prepared and become prepared in all respects to put out the fire of direct military attack instigated by America, to defeat this forceful enemy of our people and all masses of the world, and to teach another Vietnam lesson to this international gangster.

Our overall preparation for confrontation by itself could be a preventive means to prevent the insanity of the international gangster. This overall preparation, in case of manifestation of such insanity will be the means of bringing this insane criminal into its knees.

9721

CSO: 4906

COMMENTATOR CALLS FOR TRIAL OF HOSTAGE-TAKERS

Tehran PEYAN-E JABHEH-YE MELLI in Persian 5 Feb 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Dr 'Ali Asghar Hajj Seyyed Javadi: "A Demand for the Formation of a National Court"]

[Text] Fellow countrymen:

The occupation of the American Embassy and the holding of its personnel as hostages, considering its consequences for you, was a clear and manifest act of treason against the revolution and Iran's freedom and independence which benefited American imperialism and contributed to the destruction of the revolution's attainments. I categorically state to all the people of Iran that our nation and society is again the victim of assaults from all sides by imperialism and all the world-devourers, who intend to impose an unbridled dictatorial, despotic power on you through domestic traitors and opportunists in the government of the Islamic Republic.

Fellow countrymen:

With such a humiliating and shameful submission to American imperialism, we come to the conclusion that the occupation of the American Embassy and the hostage-taking was a premeditated act that was planned in order to trample the blood of thousands of martyrs to the cause of freedom and to renew the dominance of imperialism and its agents over the Iranian people.

The disastrous consequences of this occupation and hostage-taking, as you know, came with 14 months of empty slogans, the rapid dissolution of unity and solidarity, the duping and misleading of the masses, the driving of the true revolutionaries out of the domain of the country's political life, the prevalence of an atmosphere of asperity and spite, the presence of American warships and troops in the Persian Gulf, economic sanctions against Iran, and the freezing of billions of dollars worth of Iranian assets in American banks. The most valuable result of this treason against the Iranian people for American imperialism, however, was the staining of the luminous face of the Iranian revolution in the minds of the people of the world and in political and ethical circles in the Iranian nation. In pursuit of its treasonous goals, imperialism has imposed the merciless invasion of the fascist Iraqi regime on the oppressed people of Iran. It has turned the southern cities of our country into blood and rubble and deprived hundreds of thousands of our innocent compatriots of their lives and their homes, all so that our vital petroleum, customs, and industrial policies in the south would be decimated. Finally, as the most reactionary American imperialist capitalist group of all was about to enter

the White House, they released the hostages, plundered our assets, and gave the people of Iran and the Iranian revolution an undeserved bad name in the world. Today, all officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the government, the Majles and bodies which have attached themselves to the Iranian revolution and govern the people of Iran in the name of the revolution are not only silent and tightlipped concerning this shame, treason, and criminality, but they continue to dupe the simple minds of the people in the most insolent way with propaganda and instruction, and they represent their greatest crimes and acts of treason, meaning their submission to American imperialism, elimination of billions of dollars of the assets of the people of Iran, the tainting of the Iranian revolution and political and ethical circles in the Iranian nation, to the world as the greatest victory in the history of humanity! They have manifested themselves and placed all the Iranian people's communication and news resources in the service of explaining this shame and fearsome criminality.

Therefore, as a simple citizen and as an Iranian, I call upon all the people of Iran to speak out against this obvious criminality and to demand the formation of a national court to investigate the roots of this treason and submission. I ask that the people of Iran call for the investigation and punishment of all those who were the main agents for this treason and who carried out this traitorous plan against the Iranian revolution and the independence and freedom of the people of Iran. I ask the people of Iran to save the Iranian revolution from the threshold of absolute collapse with their own cries of protest. I warn the people of Iran that today's submission to American imperialism will be followed tomorrow by surrender to the Iraqi invasion.

People of Iran, demand with all your being of the political leaders of the Islamic Republic that if they believe in the Iranian revolution as they claim, they must try those who are truly responsible (not impressionable, misguided youths) for the plot to occupy the American Embassy and take hostages, in a national court in an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, and erudition with the most competent judges in the Justice Department and in the presence of respectable persons, and that they publish for your information the evidence and documents pertaining to the disgrace, treason, and pointless martyrdom of this crime.

My fellow countrymen, if you do not take a stand for the disclosure of the secrets of this great treason, if you do not investigate the main agents of the plot in order to punish them, and if the designers of this evil plan are not ejected from every position in the realm of Iranian political life, in the near future, a surrender to Saddam Hosseyn will be imposed on you with the help of a wave of lies, censorship, and strangulation in the name of the greatest victory in the entire history of humanity! Sooner or later the official arrangements for your captivity will be signed with American imperialism along with the full establishment of despotism through the use of brutality, imprisonment, and torture. With the closure of the universities, complete domination of radio and television and the press, censorship, and absolute domination of the government and the legislative and judicial powers, a thick wall of silence, fear, and ignorance will be thrown up around your individual and social lives. They will divide up all of your national money, resources, and wealth with imperialism in order to fortify their dominance and to augment their own class privileges, preferring as they take their share of it to muffle their own revolutionary ideology!

If you want to remain alive, then raise your voice in protest to save yourselves and to guard the revolution, using all the rights you have been given by the law, Islam, and history, and stop the closure of a circle of despots and those who are choking you. If you do not, we can expect nothing for ourselves and our children except death, silence, and captivity.

9310

CSO: 4906

BAZAARIS ACCUSE RAJA'I OF DECEPTION IN HOSTAGE DEAL

Tehran PEYAM-E JABHEH-YE MELLI in Persian 5 Feb 81 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Statement From the Association of Merchants, Guilds, and Tradesmen of Tehran...The Prime Minister and His Orthodox Deputies Have Done Enough"]

[Text] Since their release, the hostages have been the subject of various kinds of discussions in different social circles, and every faction and group has expressed views on the subject as parties and as individuals. Mr Behzad Nabavi, Minister of State and spokesman (orthodox, for an orthodox government) has cautioned the people about examining the hostage-taking and its results, saying that they should not compute it as if it were a commercial transaction, comparing what was expended with what was regained, but the merchants of Tehran, being economic specialists, cannot lay a matter of such great importance aside without expressing an opinion and evaluating it. Therefore, despite the views of the government spokesman, this association has found it necessary to present its views to the people of Iran, which are briefly given below:

We are glad of the release of the hostages and the conclusion of a solution to this disruptive calamity, because this cancerous tumor, the fear of which spread throughout the life of Islam every moment and exposed our nation to thousands of dangers has been removed with the release of the hostages, and an issue which was detrimental to the Iranian nation in every respect has ended and been resolved in every sense. We will briefly analyze and explain this affair and its damaging consequences.

1. If not only the Iranian nation, but the currently responsible personalities and political groups have not yet gotten to the bottom of this hostage-taking and even the Imam himself has denied having prior knowledge of this event, and it is not yet clear what went on behind the scenes and who were the main agents and what evil policies were in command of those events, can one believe that it was merely a group of students? We can hardly accept this matter easily and overlook this disastrous error. They said that the initial move (however much it went against diplomatic and international laws) was a revolutionary act designed to make the suffering voice of the tormented Iranian nation heard by the world, to recover the deposed shah's wealth, and to bring him back and try him! Everyone expected them to come to their senses and end the matter as quickly as possible so the problem would not become complicated and an international movement would not be formed, but it became evident that they had an entirely different idea in mind. Every group, deviating carelessly, made great efforts to implement its own political and group views.

According to Engineer Nabavi, the intent was that those who are orthodox, and perhaps bear not the slightest trace of religion, would misuse the pure feelings of the Iranian nation and the dear students by making playthings of the interests of Islam and the nation in order to create conditions for transferring power to the orthodox factions.

This was one result of the hostage-taking which benefited one group, but what results did it have for Islam, the country, and the Iranian nation?

2. After the hostage-taking: They made a great fuss about the return of the shah himself and his wealth, and the Iranian nation was even promised the return of close to \$35 billion of his estimated wealth, and if America did not deign to comply, there was talk of trying the hostages and American policies. What did we derive from this tumult, and how much did the Iranian nation receive?

The answer came from Mr Raja'i in KEYHAN on 8/11/59 [1/28/81]: "Iran's Failure to Obtain the Former Shah's Wealth Announced."

3. Concerning Iran's money, property, and deposits in America and its subsidiaries and interests in Europe and elsewhere, figures have been repeatedly published in government and national newspapers.

Of all Iran's wealth, which was said to be between \$11 and 14 billion, not a particle has been returned to Iran. There has been nothing except talk and promises. Essentially, the bird in the hand turned out to be no more than \$1.8-2.8 billion. The rest stayed in the bush, meaning that the \$24 billion Mr Nabavi asked for so adamantly suddenly dropped to \$1.8-2.8 billion.

4. Consider a brief statement by the prime minister made in KEYHAN on 8/11/59 [28 January 1951] on page 10 columns 3 and 4: "Out of the sums obtained, naturally debts that are past due or imminent must be paid." You know what this means and what the arrangements were between Iran and America. The agreement reads as follows:

In the event Iran fails to meet the payments on its debt, the entire debt, including principal and interest, shall become due and Iran must pay all payments at once. This means that according to the accord, we became obliged to pay off a debt immediately that we were, for example, to have paid off after 8 more years, in cash with interest. According to the prime minister's report, around 22.5 percent interest would be added to it, meaning, for example, that if we had \$1 billion on account in principal, we would pay around \$2 billion in principal and interest together. Really well done!

Like the religious and orthodox people of the Majles, we also offer our condolences and thanks for the government's brilliant maneuvers!

Mr prime minister and orthodox company, stop promoting your misplaced priorities, stop your empty sloganeering and demagoguery, and stop playing with the fate of Islam, the country, and the dear Iranian nation.

You and your colleagues have brought enough adversity, loss, and irreparable damage down on the head of this nation and country. Summon your courage, admit the failure of your acts, ease your conscience, because acknowledgement of defeat (in the event of defeat) is itself the greatest act of courage.

5. Economic blockade: The country's imports throughout the economic sanctions, which were mostly from third world countries, inevitably resulted in additional expenses, from commissions for the third world countries, to payment of additional shipping charges, losing on currency exchanges, and so on. The amount of additional expenses and losses the country incurred in this way could perhaps be set at around \$1.5 billion.

6. As a result of the hostage-taking, we became so isolated politically that not even friendly countries sanctioned our acts. In the war with Iraq, however obvious it was that we were being invaded, we had become so isolated that not even brother 'Abu 'Ammar supported us.

7. Although at the start of the revolution we gave hope to all the weak nations of the world, afterward the orthodox crowd portrayed Islam to the world in such a despicable light that the dispossessed people finally lost hope and sank into despair.

What religious school (the one you are now following) did we who were and are religious choose to follow? Only Stalinism? How did it happen that in the presence of the legitimate Ja'fari religion, a baseless school of thought should be imposed on the Moslem nation of Iran?

Enough. The Iranian nation rose up and made a revolution for the well-being of itself and of Islam: Independence, freedom, and Islamic Republic, not a Stalinist and Marxist school. If it made a revolution, it was to obtain the high principles and ideals of Islam, not for the course you have taken.

There are many great mojtaheds, [those authorized to make legal judgments in religious matters] may God grant long lives to those who do not express themselves in the prevailing atmosphere, remaining in seclusion. They all see your course as against Islamic law and the cannons of Ja'fari Shi'ism. Among them are Ayatollahs Golpayegani, Shari'atmadari, Qomi, Shirazi, Mahallati, Zanjani, Khademi, and others.

Yes, Islam and Shi'ism have codified laws, and they do not need the shameful school of thought derived from it and the line that other countries have tried or that you are heretically imposing. The Iranian nation has condemned it and will never submit to what is contrary to religious law.

They remember those who have passed on. The deceased Dr Mohammad Mossadeq, may he rest in peace, when he protested the Majles elections in front of the deposed shah's palace, the previously executed Hazhir, minister of the court at that time, came out of the palace and said "the elections are free!"

The deceased Dr Mohammad Mossadeq said "Mr Hazhir, are you an honorable man? Are these elections free?"

We now ask you, you...Moslems? Don't you know that liars are the enemies of Islam? At least come and take the Islamic characteristics out of the Islamic Republic, the Majles, and the government of the Islamic Republic and put everyone's mind at ease, because the road you have taken leads to the land of infidels.

Oh vain orthodox powermongers...what victory did you gain for the nation by drawing out the hostage-holding for about 14 months? You are only fooling the people when you say that we are fighting tooth and nail with a superpower without taking the consequences of that into consideration! It is like the familiar proverb. They want to untie a knot with their teeth that could be untied by hand.

Would it not have been possible to reach an agreement with America 8 or 9 months ago with extraordinary conditions, more favorable concessions, and from a position of power? Could you not have avoided attracting American naval vessels to the Persian Gulf? Even though you have no hesitation about lying, can you swear that if this accord had been reached 8 or 9 months ago under exceptional circumstances Iraq would have had the courage to attack Iran, so that so many young lovers of Islam and the homeland would not be thrown on the ground like the leaves of autumn and so much destruction would not be created? What officials are responsible for the blood of these young people and martyrs of the land of Iran? It is clear that this was an imposed war and that the nation will fight with all its might for every inch of Iranian soil and the defense of Islam.

In terms of the avoidance of dependence, we have violated our own purposes and made ourselves more dependent with destruction, the martyrdom of self-sacrificing young people and war refugees, the closure of schools and universities, economic collapse, the virtual shutdown of industry and agriculture, the currency of rancor and gross social hypocrisy and a market of middle class consumption, and since the things that have been destroyed will one day have to be rebuilt, like it or not, when that time comes the extent of dependence will become clear.

Let us admit that this hostage-taking was not only not a victory for the Iranian nation, but was the cause of the loss of Iranian prestige and respect internationally, the loss of Iranian assets, the failure to obtain the shah's wealth, insupportable destruction, inestimable human loss and greater dependence.

Whether you accept this and find the courage to announce that your school has produced nothing but destruction, desolation and defeat and has created hypocrisy for Islam and the nation, or you again go on with your concealment and hypocrisy, the Iranian nation and history will curse you forever.

The Association of Merchants, Guilds, and Tradesmen of Tehran

9310

CSO: 4906

FORMER PRISON WARDEN WRITES KHOMEYNI ON KHALKHALI'S CRIMES

Tehran PEYAM-E JABHEH-YE MELLI in Persian 5 Feb 81 p 3

[Article: "'Ali Karimi Discloses Inhuman, Anti-Islamic Acts: Khalkhali Is a Product of a System of Injustice and Perversion"]

[Text] Mr 'Ali Karimi, former warden of Qasr Prison, issued a statement in which he enumerated aspects of Mr Khalkhali's activities which were contrary to Islamic and human standards and principles, and considering the fact that, first of all, Mr Khalkhali has often represented himself in various ways as an appointee of the Imam, the matter has even more importance and sensitivity.

Secondly, he had declared that as a mojtahed [one qualified to exercise judgment in religious matters] he was competent to impose various degrees of penalties not within the boundaries and limitations of the law.

We present this statement, which has been widely distributed among the people and a copy of which has also come to us, without any comment whatsoever for the edification of our dear readers.

Your Excellency Imam Khomeyni, blessed and exalted leader of the revolution, may your blessedness endure.

Greetings, praise, and salutations to the dear Prophet of Islam, the pure imams, and the great leader of the nation. I am 'Ali Karimi, native of Qom, resident of Tehran, known to his Eminence and other leaders of the nation for my record for struggling on the path of bringing the revolution and the Islamic Republic to fruition. In this sensitive time, in which, as you have said yourself, the foundation of the Islamic Republic and revolution is in danger, I know my lawful religious responsibility. Allow me to convey part of the realities and things I have witnessed to the Imam's hearing in order to discharge my duty in the court of almighty God, to lay down a portion of the heavy burden of sin I feel in myself, and to sooth my troubled conscience. In addition to Your Excellency's recent emphasis on disclosure of the realities, confusing situations, and the unwarranted interference of some people, and on the removal from office of people who have smuggled themselves into a great many revolutionary bodies and even the religious courts, oh great Imam, you

yourself know better than anyone that in chaotic, lawless conditions nothing can be accomplished. Considering current circumstances, we ought to operate according to law, and no law at all is better [than piecemeal implementation of the law.] At present, we have the highest laws in the world, which are the achievement of the blood of our martyrs, enacted by representatives of the people in the Assembly of Experts and also confirmed by Your Exalted Eminence. I am referring to the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Unfortunately, most of this law has not been put into effect since its enactment. Instead, practices contrary to it are being carried out.

As a Moslem and an Iranian who considers himself responsible, I submit to His Excellency that since the first days of the revolution's victory, the days of blood and fire, and from the Refah School, His Excellency's first residence, I have repeatedly warned officials and reported what I have seen, but unfortunately no heed was paid. I will repeat what I have said now for the Imam of the nation, and I state plainly that if the Imam also ignores this, which of course he will not do at all, I will expose everyone and I will repeat everything I have seen and ascertained for the Moslem, combative Iranian nation. Even if imprisonment, torture, and even execution await me, and even if this brings on torture for the spirit and the body of my ideal and leader, the great Ruhollah Khomeyni.

I was appointed warden at Qasr Prison. It was there that Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali was presented as religious magistrate on behalf of the dear Imam. If you remember how he looked, he wore raggedy clothing and an old cloak with holes in it, and he slept on the floor at night. I was influenced by his character on several mornings until the occasion when Mr Khalkhali and I came to you with 2 or 3 million in cash belonging to Qasr Prison. I received the greatest honor there when I received my sidearm which I had taken as plunder from the condemned Brigadier General Rahimi as a gift from your blessed hand. If you remember, at the time this weapon was given to me, Mr Khalkhali wanted to take it for himself, when Your Excellency said, Mr Khalkhali, you are armed with your knowledge. Give the weapon to 'Ali. Since I had the honor of presenting reports with Mr Khalkhali numerous times, I saw that this religious magistrate lied in the presence of the Imam of the nation, and I realized that this individual wanted to misuse his position and his status as representative of the Imam in order to acquire power. Since the people did not know him, no one believed me when I said these things. I therefore decided to remain close to him as a red agent in the names of the people in this group. The revolutionary courts, which had put a number of people in that group in Evin Prison for several days, released them from prison with full apologies on the orders and recommendations of Mr Khalkhali.

5. In Karaj, the condemned Jah nani's garden was made available for his group's use, and if the record of these people were to be briefly studied, it would become clear what sort of people they are!! A great many weapons, munitions, and even long-range artillery are kept in this garden. They also ran a prison in this garden, which is Moslem property, and the expenses for all these operations were obtained in illegal and religiously unauthorized ways.

6. In the matter of the antinarcotics campaign, Mr Khalkhali became head of the effort by fabricating petitions and having recommendations, telephone calls, and telegrams sent to the offices of the president and the Imam, and at this stage of his career he made all the liars, hangmen, famous criminals, and bribe-takers of the

world look innocent by comparison with his deeds. He put on a revolutionary guard uniform and went to Malayer and Hamadan. There, though he did not find a particle of opium or heroin, he sentenced a group of people to death and imprisonment because they had past records. It is interesting that he telephoned me from there and said "I have sent you 300 kilograms of heroin and you have burned it!" Then he immediately spread the lie in the news media that Mr Khalkhali had discovered 300 kilograms of heroin. Great Imam, summon the file on this 300 kilograms and the record of the proceedings on this quantity of opiates, in order to clarify what is true and untrue concerning it.

7. Mr Khalkhali opened account No 7480 in his own name in the Police Academy branch of the National Bank, next to Qasr Prison, and, unfortunately, I supplied a reference for him so he could open this current order to be more involved in the activities and behavior of this individual. However, much I cried out and pointed out, no one paid any attention, as if officials also, like the counterrevolutionaries, were afraid of his hooting, his name, and his terrorizing, and kept silent and indifferent before this bitter situation. I will now submit of his illegal, anti-Islamic, inhuman activities, so far as I can remember, for your blessed consideration.

1. Mr Khalkhali did not try a single one of the defendants in a reasonable, normal manner, and he sometimes issued as many as 70 verdicts in an hour's time, the relevant files of which are in existence. He condemned many people to death for personal reasons or on his driver's recommendation or that of his friends and acquaintances, and with the Imam's permission I will prove this with sufficient documents and evidence in his blessed presence.

2. In Kordestan, Dr Reshvand Sardari was shot by a firing squad with no reason, evidence, or authorization because of having spoken abusively to Mr Khalkhali. There is an existing file on this. I ask that you appoint an imperial individual to investigate this matter in order to prove that no investigation of any kind was made of the condemned doctor.

3. In Madani's time in Khuzistan six people imprisoned during the former regime were brought out of prison and executed without a trial as soon as Mr Khalkhali arrived. Evidence to support this claim exists in the Ahvaz court records. It is surprising that not one of the insurgents from Madani's time was tried or condemned by Khalkhali.

4. When he was removed from his position as religious magistrate in Qom, he formed terrorist groups which were unlike the shah's groups, which also perpetrated terrorism, and again, if it is in the best interests of the matter, I will announce account. You should determine how many millions of dollars have been deposited in this account and what this money has been used for. Is it right from a legal point of view that public funds be kept in someone's personal account?

If we want to recall the wrongdoings of Mr Khalkhali, (it would take several volumes) we will find torture of defendants in the name of religious law, the taking of enormous bribes in the name of confiscation, many executions, living in opulent houses with furnishings belonging to other people, using millions of dollars worth of publicly owned vehicles for himself, his family, and his friends, and the employment of notorious characters such as Mashallah Qassab, who committed terrorist acts, as a part of the shah-like acts of this religious magistrate. In short,

Great Imam of the Revolution, these are some of the things I have seen and learned. If you wish, I will divulge the wrongdoings of this individual in a public people's court or a television debate. I turn this case over to the Imam of the nation and the Moslem, combative Iranian nation. I ask the kind and merciful God to prolong your blessed life, which is the guarantor of the Islamic revolution's continuation.

Respectfully,

'Ali Karimi

Former Warden of Qasr Prison

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CSO: 4906

IRAN

ANALYTIC ACCOUNT OF REVOLUTION BY WOMEN'S MAGAZINE

Tehran BANUVAN (RAH-E ZEYNAB) in Persian 10 Feb 81 pp 24, 25, 54

[Text] This revolution originated on 15 Khordad, [5 June] during a bloody Khordad colored by the blood of toiling urbanites and villagers. It injected fresh blood into the dried-up veins of political and parliamentary struggles, and it showed that there was no answer to the insolence of the English-American shah except bullets.

This revolution originated in the leadership of the bloody Khordad uprising.

A leader who said no to the so-called White Revolution (CIA) and who bravely stood by his renunciation until he was exiled, while the superficial, of front-line Tudeh Party of Iran shortsightedly called the shah's White Revolution progressive and forward-moving!

The same people who, following the regime's example, paid much lip service to prayers for His Majesty's health on 28 Bahman [17 February] after the assassination attempt against him failed, destroyed all hopes and possibilities for any reconciliation with the Pahlavi SAVAK regime after 15 Khordad. This is how we saw the beginning of a heroic, combative movement after the bloody month of Khordad.

This was a heroic struggle, apart from the people and without their help, fighting against the dominance of both the shah and imperialism, a movement that stealthily sought to assassinate the regime's pawns. This was a people's struggle, without help from the people.

From the year 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964] on, the regime practiced brutality, strangulation and torture in insidious ways with the help of the Israeli spy organization (MUSAD) and America (CIA), and it founded the SAVAK under the leadership of Timur Bakhtiar. In this way, a great many of the people were sentenced to long terms in prison and torture merely for the crime of possessing statements or tapes of the expository views of Imam Khomeyni.

Our leader, who, after spending a period of time in Turkey, continued his exile in Najaf, used every occasion while in exile to inform the people and clarify for them America's countless crimes in Iran, and thereby made the regime the target of his revealing attacks.

After the turning of the Ba'th government in the direction of America's interests, the resultant reconciliation between Saddam and the shah, the possibility arose for Iranians to travel to Iraq and the Imam's home in Najaf became the center of activities for Moslem crusaders under the Imam's leadership.

As a part of its cooperation with the shah, the Ba'th regime sought to create difficulties and limitations for the Imam and his companions, and while carrying out its inhuman policies it martyred Mostafa Khomeyni, a great man, who, in the Imam's words, was the hope for the future of Islam.

The shah's regime, however, did not fail to launch plots against the revolution's leader. The shah gave Amir Khosraw Afshar, foreign minister of the time, special instructions to make preparations for a conference with his Iraqi friends in order to expel the Imam from Iraq. The latter went to New York ostensibly to take part in a study and to attend the third session of the UN General Assembly. During his stay there he met with the foreign ministers of several countries, including Iraq (two times), England, Israel, and also Henry Kissinger. A top secret report of these activities was sent to Mohammad Reza Pahlavi by diplomatic pouch.

Afshar's report on his visit with the Iraqi foreign minister contained the following:

In this regard (expulsion of the Imam from Iraq), I said to him that if this person is a political refugee, international law is explicit concerning the subject of political asylum. Furthermore, governmental agreements between Iran and Iraq and the basic spirit between His Majesty the shah and Mr Saddam Hosseyn have been established. Iran and Iraq are bound to these, and, like Iran, for its part, is fully committed to adhering to this spirit and these principles, I know that you are also making efforts in this respect, as you have affirmed today in your remarks. Now, do the continuous activities of this individual not conflict with this? I said to the foreign minister: Before you answer, let me ask if the situation were reversed, and a well-known religious figure from Iraq made, for example, Abadan or Ahvaz the center of extensive incitements against your leaders and leadership apparatus, what would you expect Iran to do? After a period of hesitation, the Iraqi foreign minister said: Just a few days ago a high official in the Iraqi leadership saw him and advised him that his activities were contrary to the interests of Iraq, and that he must remain silent. I said: I know that he was not quiet up until a week ago when I was in Tehran. He said you know that a lot of people do things in his name, distribute statements in his name, and speak for him. I said in response, why do you not repudiate them? Furthermore, his interviews with foreign reporters are so clear and outspoken that there is no room for this kind of talk. He said give us whatever evidence you have that demonstrates his subversive activities in order to strengthen our hand. I gave him several documents I had with me and said: We also have tapes that we will send to you.

In his third report to the shah on his meetings, Amir Khosraw Afshar wrote the following:

"...the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said that it had conveyed all your concerns to the Iraqi leadership, and that your embassy in Baghdad should know that the Iraqi government, just as you said, has advised Khomeyni that he is a political refugee and that according to international law he must refrain from any sort of act against Iran. At the same time, his quarters have been placed under police surveillance and Iranian visitors are completely controlled and restricted."

Thus the Imam was forced to leave Iraq and go to France in order to carry on the struggle, and this journey brought about a profound change in the struggle.

The shah's dependent regime took up butchery in order to scratch the pure face of the leadership, in order to perhaps divide the nation's firm resolution to fulfill the Imam's commands. With this intent it printed an article in the newspaper ETELA'AT on Saturday 17 Dey [7 January] by Daryush Homayun, a submissive regime hireling, titled "Iran and the Red and Black Colonialists" written in an abusive and insulting tone against the leadership's integrity. The appearance of this article aroused the nation's wrath, and the city of Qom was brought to a standstill by protests against it. The text of the Imam's explanation of the incident follows:

The crimes of 29 Moharram of this year are attributable to the shah. On 12 Moharram the shah wanted to put on a display of power for the Moslem nation. After concluding the account with the President of the United States, he riddled the center of Shi'ism and the seat of Islamic theological authority inside the walls of the pure tomb of the chaste Fatimah (Peace be upon her) with bullets, and he killed a great many innocent young people in the religious domain of knowledge and zealous believers in the pious city of Qom on a flimsy pretext devised by his agents. There are no statistics on them now. Estimates of the number killed so far have ranged between 70 and 300, and God knows how many were wounded.

On 29 Bahman [17 February] on the conclusion of the silence and restraint of the 40-day mourning period, the city of Qom was bloodied with passionate fervor. The heroic community of Tabriz, in an organized and extensive attack against all manifestations of the idolater's power, stunned and terrified the regime in just 1 day. The regime purged the Tabriz SAVAK, suspecting negligence. After the 40-day interlude following the Tabriz incident, there were heroics in Esfahan, and there were uprisings in every city repeatedly at 40-day intervals.

America was still the shah's most loyal friend. Whether in power or not, the shah was a basic issue for America. William Sullivan, American ambassador in Iran at the time of the people's uprising, said in a speech to the Rotary Club concerning Iran-America relations:

America and Iran have mutual interests in the Middle East and the horn of Africa, and Carter has made it clear that relations between Iran and America will remain firm and strong as always.

Sullivan added: Friendship between the two societies of Iran and America have never been so warm and close. The shah's last visit to America demonstrated this friendship and warmth. Just as was heard around the world, the President of the United States announced that America and Iran are two united countries that will not be separated for any reason. (ETELA'AT 16/9/56 [7 December 1977]).

America, which continued its diligent support of the shah's policies until after the brutal killings of 17 Shahrivar [8 September], was forced to change its position concerning its hand-picked servant, the shah, with the convening of a conference between the leaders of four countries, America, France, England, and Germany, in Guadelupe and the acceptance of Giscard d'Estaing's principle of nonsupport for the shah and the formation of a coalition between military forces and religious leaders

Concerning the new American policy, John (sic-James) Schlesinger, the American energy secretary, said:

This sense of danger (control of the Persian Gulf) has caused the government to rethink matters in order to prevent the obliteration of American power and influence in the Persian Gulf. Of course, in spite of that group of quarrelsome nitpickers in the Carter administration who support military intervention in the area, the Carter administration believes that military intervention would not save the shah. On the contrary, such an intervention would produce an even more radical successor regime and would unite the Arab world in opposition to America.

ETTELA'AT 9/12/57 [29 February 1979]

The plan submitted by the French president to remove the shah and to seek to attend to Western interests with the help of some religious leaders in the future government was based on a fundamental understanding of the essence of the Westernized religious wing of the revolution, and in view of the bankrupt methods of strangulation, brutality, torture and killing of the American imperialists, the absolute defeat of which was made manifest by the brave resistance of the people of Iran, it is especially novel and clever. General Robert Huyser commander of American NATO forces, became responsible for relations with religious leaders inclined toward the West and the leaders of the shah's American army.

The nature of Huyser's activities in Iran was discussed in the 29 January issue of the newspaper FIGARO:

When it became clear that General Azhari's government could not control the situation, General Oveysi, the Tehran military commander, suggested extensive army participation in order to suppress disturbances.

The American representative Huyser categorically opposed this idea, and consequently the Azhari government collapsed and General Oveysi resigned and went into exile. When it became clear that Bakhtiar would not form his government unless the shah at least renounced his position, General Khosrowdad proposed the same idea General Oveysi had put forward (extensive army involvement in order to suppress disturbances), and here Huyser views were the same as before, so Khosrowdad changed his post.

...According to Huyser, if the army were to have reached in support of the shah, who was faced with massive opposition and rebellion, it would be courting defeat.

It was Huyser's view that the army had to maintain its coalition and unity and not stake its existence on the person of the shah. It must wait for an opportunity to utilize dissent and create greater acceptability for a nonmilitary government by taking a stand behind a figurehead.

Despite all Huyser's efforts (this filthy imperialist hireling) to separate the army from the shah, and even though there were soldiers and officers who faithfully chose martyrdom and joined the ranks of the people, the shah's army killed our Moslem people to the full extent of its capability, and tens of thousands of martyrs and wounded from the revolution bear witness to this claim.

Those with leanings toward the West link the victory of the revolution with the army's stepping aside and not confronting the people and with the establishment of contact with Huyser, this filthy American hireling, because of their great shortsightedness and their failure to realize the Great Khomeyni's penetrating, overwhelming role in the moment by moment manifestation and completion of this revolution and the passionate faith of the true crusaders, who drenched the whole of this country with their own blood, and they no doubt see themselves as among the basic factors in this bloodless truce.

Formation of the Revolutionary Council

After the shah fled the Imam announced the formation of the Revolutionary Council on 23 Dey [13 January] and after the closure of Mehrabad Airport for several days in succession, the Imam finally entered Tehran in the midst of the greatest possible excitement and uproar. With the selection of Bazargan as prime minister, the temporary Bakhtiar government still held on tenaciously.

At dawn on 20 Bahman [9 February] the people went to the air force base upon hearing gunfire there and because of information spread throughout the city by slogans, in order to be unarmed witnesses of a confrontation between their crusading air force brothers and the hireling guards. This was the beginning of another transformation in the struggle against the regime. By 22 Bahman [11 February] all but one or two police stations and SAVAK centers of the regime's basic installations had fallen into the hands of the self-sacrificing Moslems. The city was filled with barricades and bunkers by the people and the air force brothers and the masses became armed. Intending to stage a treasonous coup d'etat, the government declared martial law at 4 pm. This time also, with a decisive decision, the leader of the revolution issued an order nullifying the state of martial law. He recommended to the people that they go into the streets and prepare to defend themselves, thus thwarting this great plot. The treasonous leaders of the coup d'etat were arrested and executed.

The victory of 22 Bahman [11 February] is a fragrant tree with its roots in the soil of 6,000 years of human history and in a history that grafts this fragrant tree to all prophetic uprisings, a fragrant tree whose fruit is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With the hope that this fruit will never be worm-eaten, afflicted, or finally fall to the devilish arrogance of the plagues of the East and West or the devilish temptations of the unfaithful souls of powerful personalities, and that we will be fearless gardeners for this fragrant tree.

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CSO: 4906

FEDAYIN-E KHALQ ORGAN DEMANDS HEAVY WEAPONS FOR REVOLUTION GUARDS

Tehran KAR in Persian 21 Jan 81 p 5

[Text] The necessity of training the revolutionary guards in use of heavy weapons in confronting the aggressive Iraqi Army which is equipped with the most modern and sophisticated military arms has become clear, or rather clearer, for some officials of the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized this matter during the course of his visit on 27 Dey [17 January] with officials responsible for training revolution guards and stated: "The revolutionary guards must be equipped with heavy weapons because progress cannot be made with light weapons. It is not only the duty of the guards but it is necessary that all people become acquainted with modern weapons and...Furthermore on 24 Dey [14 January] in a message issued on the occasion of commencement of the work of a 3-day seminar by officials responsible for training the revolutionary guard corps in the Qadir garrison of Isfahan, Ayatollah Montazeri stated: "I have repeatedly emphasized this point to responsible officials and though I have heard that such training has commenced in the corps, according to reports sufficient attention is not being paid and certain negligence has been observed."

He added if such negligence did not occur "this training would reduce death and loss of life. In some cases, if brother guards had received training on heavy equipment, the blood of dear and devoted youths who are assets of this country, would not have been shed."

Officials responsible for training revolution guards themselves have also placed emphasis on the correctness of this viewpoint in their declaration.

"We demand that responsible officials to equip the corps with heavy weapons as soon as possible and consider this an absolute right of the corps in preserving and continuing the revolution." In another part of this declaration, it was demanded that the government "make as much effort as possible to provide training possibilities for the corps."

What has been declared by Ayatollah Montazeri and officials responsible for training the corps is nothing more than the statement of a fact which has been learned at the cost of irreplaceable loss of life and damage. Realizing the necessity of training and acquainting revolutionary guards with the operation of heavy weapons and speedily equipping them with such arms has been effectuated not only as the result of bitter experience gained during the course of the imposed war by

aggressive Saddam's army against our homeland, but also points to feeling the necessity of being better prepared to thwart future direct and indirect conspiracies of American imperialism by the anti-imperialist forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In truth, today, nobody can think of the preservation and continuity of the anti-imperialist revolution of the peoples of our country and underestimate the dangers of the wounded imperialism of America and her internal agents. No longer can anyone talk about the necessity of confrontation with aggressive and conspiring America without taking practical steps to strengthen the defense potential of the country.

Consequently, under the prevailing conditions, raising the combat efficiency of the revolutionary guards corps through training and arming with heavy weapons is the least task which must be undertaken by officials of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our revolutionary countrymen know fully well that at the very beginning of the aggression of Saddam's criminal army against our country, the Fedayin-e Khalq organ majority not only emphasized the necessity of arming the masses, which would guarantee the victory of our revolution over the conspiracies and aggression of imperialism and its allies, but also recommended arming the revolutionary guards with heavy weapons as the first duty of responsible officials. Thus what happened during course of the war was clear and obvious from the beginning. The course of events clearly portrayed to everyone the extent of the reduction of operational capabilities of our anti-imperialist armed forces against the aggression of Saddam's army due to its being deprived of possessing heavy arms and this, had been predictable. This prediction was something which each individual revolutionary guard felt bodily during course of war. This timely warning was later transformed into angry cries against obstructionists by the revolutionary guards who were forced to fight with light and unequal weapons against criminal Saddam's army equipped with modern arms. During course of the operation, once again it was proved that the staunch faith of our patriotic forces in countering the imperialist conspiracies was the necessary precondition for resistance and achievement of victory, thus, combat efficiency must be increased and weapons which could effectively counter the enemy's aggression must be utilized.

However, unfortunately during those days, this opportune and timely warning went by unheeded. Attention of responsible officials to this fact at the beginning, would have culminated in preventing the loss of some of the best and most devoted members of the revolutionary corps and also would have positively affected the combat morale of this revolutionary institution which had withstood with all its might, repeated American imperialist conspiracies and Saddam's aggression in defending the revolution's achievements. Only such attention could have given a decisive response to those obstructionist liberals, the negligence of a number of high officials of the army of the Islamic Republic and all those persons who were frightened at the practical strengthening of this institution and had been covertly or overtly obstructing the arming of the revolutionary guards with heavy weapons. Now that world imperialism headed by America is engineering another conspiracy, we emphasize more than ever the necessity of this measure. We demand that officials of the Islamic Republic show greater attention, responsibility and resoluteness and no longer permit the revolution of being deprived of its full potential.

9797

CSO: 4906

RECONSTRUCTION CRUSADE ACHIEVEMENTS IN SANANDAJ REVIEWED

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Mar 81 p 3

[Text]

SANANDAJ (Pars) — The Construction Jihad Organization of Sanandaj (Western Iran) issued a report of the activities of the committees of this organization during the past 7 months as follows:

Agricultural Committee: The purchase and distribution of 600 tons of wheat among the provincial towns and villages, the distribution of 1,129 tons of fertilizers and 3 tons of pesticides among villagers and the extension of 356,300 rials in loans to villagers for cattlebreeding, the dredging of subterranean canals, digging of wells, purchase of water pumps, the entrustment of 4 tractors to the branches of the Construction Jihad Organization throughout the province, the cultivation of 48 hectares of land, the cultivation of lands of feudalists who fled the country with the cooperation of the villagers' Islamic council in Arandan and Haji Abad villages, the establishment of 2 carpet weaving workshops with 14 carpet weaving machines in Noor-cheshm and Sadeq villages and distribution of 53,500 kgs. of barley among villagers for sowing.

Veterinary Committee: The vaccination of 191,000 sheep, 5,000 cows and calves by a veterinary team dispatched to Sanandaj and Ghorveh, the distribution of 1,000 tons of waste barley and 180 tons of waste wheat among villagers to be used as fodder for the cattle throughout the province, the visiting of the dairy farm houses in the region and the purchase of 100,000 one-day old chicks, the supply of medicines at half prices or free to poultry farming houses, holding veterinary classes for villagers and the extension of loans to villagers for the development of traditional cattle-breeding.

Electricity and Water Supply Committee: The supply of electricity to the villages of Neghar Gharajian, Gortzeh, Joshan, Abbas Abad, Kani Kozalen and Ghar, pipe-laying operations in the villages of Haji Abad, Geryeh Asha, Kalleh Jar, Mahalleh, Golsan, Khaneqah, Gzar Darreh, Asavoleh, Gharjan, Darreh Dero and Lushoor.

Urban Development Committee: The construction of houses for the impoverished setting up of 6 posts, the construction of 20 trenches, the construction of 2,655 sq. meters of steps in Sirus St., 750 sq. meters of sewage network in 2 quarter of Sanandaj and 150 sq. meters of walls, the repairs of 3 storerooms at the Governor's Office, the construction of a water installation room and 5 transformer installation rooms and wiring of all the streets and quarters of Abbas Abad.

Hygienic Committee: The establishment of Sanandaj Health Center comprising of the following wards: general diseases, dentistry, injection and first aid. So far, 820 Patients have been treated at this health center.

Cultural Committee: The establishment of 30 libraries and the distribution of 75,000 volumes of books throughout the province, holding various exhibitions showing films and slides, and holding ideological classes throughout the province.

RECONSTRUCTION CRUSADE SUPPORTS WAR EFFORT ACTIVELY

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Mar 81 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, March 17 (Pars) — The last day of the Seminar of the Construction Jihad started with the recitation of several verses of the Holy Quran yesterday afternoon. Present in the seminar were the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti, the Prosecutor General of the Country, Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, several deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) families of the martyrs of the Construction Jihad and the commander of operations in Kurdistan.

A member of the Central Council of the Construction Jihad, Abbas Akhundzadeh, talked about the issues of the Jihad, war, feudalism, courts, Islamic Assemblies of villages, cooperatives, the budget, the situation of universities, the reform of the university and asked the authorities to take the proper measures.

Praising the activities of the Construction Jihad, Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili said, "the members of the Jihad have been models in all the affairs of the society and they should be pioneers in the establishment of the sovereignty of law and the providing of judicial security together with judicial authority. Talking about the Press, he said that it is not permissible that anybody should write anything he desires in the name of freedom without any control. He stressed

that all the institutions and organs should prove their good-will in their words and their actions, and everybody should try to calm the social atmosphere with unity of thought.

Colonel Seyyed Shirazi spoke about the situation of the Armed Forces in the Western regions and the harmonizing of the engineering group of the Armed Forces with the Jihad members. In his speech, Dr. Beheshti said that nowadays, the problem of the governments is that they imagine they are separate from the people and that the people have some expectations, and they think the governments should be the producer, set the plans, and the people should just consume these. He added if such a situation would prevail, it would be dangerous.

Addressing the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Jihad members, the Chief Justice said, "You must show your goals at first and should determine that your weapons and tools be at the service of your goals. The staff of the Jihad should have noble, Islamic, and progressive insight so that they would convey the message of the revolution wherever they would go."

Then the resolution of the seminar was read and confirmed by the Takbir (shouting 'Allah-o-Akbar') of the participants. The resolution which included 13 points stated that the institution

was not affiliated to any group or party and, in following the leadership and with regard to Islamic principles they would cooperate with all the group who believed in Velayat-e Faghih and would ideologically and firmly counter those who were against Velayat-e Faghih and the basis of the Islamic Republic. They also condemned the recent cowardly attacks and plots against the ulema, revolutionary institutions, the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the government of the Islamic Republic by aligned sub-groups and hypocrites.

The resolution called on Ayatollah Montazeri and the Managing Council of the Qom Theological Center to establish theological center in the provincial cities and to dispatch the ulema to the Reconstruction Jihad.

It further requested the control over and closure of those press organs which were playing with

the achievements of the Islamic Republic by publishing false and biased articles. Stating that reopening of the universities without sufficient consolidation of Islamic values in these centers and without fundamental changes in the educational and administrative systems was contrary to the views of Imam Khomeini, the resolution called on the authorities to pay deep attention to this critical issue and to subtly implement the instructions of the Imam regarding the Cultural Revolution.

With regard to the conspiracies of the world oppressors against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the reconstruction Jihad's resolution stressed the importance of participation in the war and said it would give priority to looking into the case of the war refugees and the expansion of productivity in the activities of the coming year.

MINISTER EXPLAINS MOTIVES FOR CLOSING UNIVERSITIES

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Mar 81 p 2

[Text]

Hojjatolislam Bahonar the Minister of Education held a speech before the Friday prayers on March 13th. The following are sections of his speech which concern the universities and schools.

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the merciful.

Today coincides with the 19th death anniversary of Ayatollah Kashani, who played an important role in nationalization of the oil industry. The illustrious record of the fighting of this religious leader, including his struggles in Iraq against British domination as well as internal fights against Reza Khan and his son, the defunct shah, present him as a religious leader vis a vis the world estekbar (arrogance, affluence).

People regarded him as a man who sought to raise his voice against estekbar. The struggle against British imperialism was mixed with religion and Islam. Ayatollah Kashani's role in the event of July 21, 1952, which forced the ruling regime to succumb, was truly great.

When the enemy realized that the religious power can bring about people's mobilization, plots were instigated and harsh words were hurled against this leader. When the religious force was gradually weakened and isolated, ground was prepared for schism and division, and, consequently, the popular force was made vulnerable, and the evil world estekbar regained domination.

Today, the world estekbar is using the same designs to cause factionalism, discord and disturbance in our society.

As regards schools and educational establishments, it should be said that our dear Muslim students are carrying on their educational work with political and revolutionary vigilance, and are preventing undesirable incidents to happen.

There are 4,500 schools in Tehran and 50,000 throughout the country, all of which are active. All our schools in Kurdistan are busy carrying out their teaching work.

Responsible officials of education in Khuzestan and other war-stricken areas, with incessant efforts, have provided enough facilities for studies of the children in those areas.

A point that should be mentioned in connection with the cultural revolution is that for the past nine months we have been subjected to plots and accusations made by small antirevolutionary groups as to why universities were closed down. It is surprising that most of the opposition to the closure of universities and to the cultural revolution came from those persons and groups who did not pay the slightest attention to classrooms, libraries, laboratories and workshops of the universities.

They had turned the university rooms into trenches for plots against the Islamic revolution, and for poisoning the public mind

against the Republic. Therefore, those who regretted university closure were really concerned with their own political assignment because they were unable to fulfill them within the universities. During our recent trips to some countries in the world, we asked the authorities whether it was usual that some people turn universities into sites for plots against their governments and to bar educational activities. The answer in all cases was negative.

A glance at the records of universities, which are open for public inspection, reveals that there were many ceremonial colleges and institutes established in various parts of the country, consisting of merely a building and a number of registered students. But there were no educational branch, equipment, professors, or any educational activities in those centers. The past regime simply wanted to keep the youth somehow busy for 3 or 4 years, after which, for them to be able to receive a piece of paper in order to entitle them to get a behind-the-desk job, and under the impression of having passed a course, aggravate the problem of bureaucracy.

On inspection, we saw that the percentage of active and useful universities and institutes of higher learning as compared with useless and showpiece ones, was very low.

As we are concerned with truth and values in the Islamic Republic, we did not want to make a show of hollow and mock institutes and to say that we have 220 institutes of higher learning. Our universities must have rich scientific and technical contents.

Therefore, the closure of universities means putting an end to hollowness and aimlessness of many of these institutes, so that foundations can be laid for the creation of active institutes. You know that the Planning Committees within the Cultural Revolution Staff are very busy doing its work.

At present, there are more than 150 planning committees functioning, in which about 700 committed specialists, professors and a number of higher-level undergraduates take part to direct

the universities towards self-sufficiency, and to let talents of the young generation blossom forth in this country.

Moreover, the opportunity of university closure, has been utilized to channel a large number of committed students to revolutionary institutions.

More than 50,000 persons, mostly students, are now working in the Construction Jihad throughout the country. Although these students have left the classrooms, they have gone to villages for constructive work to provide the deprived classes of our society with welfare, health, school and agricultural assistance. A large number of dear revolutionary students are busy helping teaching in secondary and educational guidance schools; 5,000 students are teaching in the schools of Tehran. Therefore, this active forces have been utilized. Professors who do not teach currently, work in the Construction Jihad. They have been able to do some work in the field of invention, discovery and constructiveness. In the exhibitions displayed on the occasion of the 22nd of Bahman, you observed that 300 types of spare parts, which were formerly purchased from abroad, have been made by the same youth from universities, i.e. their intellectual and initiative faculties started to function. Large classes have been organized by university professors for re-orientation and re-training of secondary school teachers. In one of such classes, 500 teachers were trained for two months. Similar re-training classes are being conducted by the Construction Jihad and professors for mathematics, physics and literature teachers. Therefore, if the large troop of students do not work, they have really entered the field of activity. If you look at governors-general and governors' departments, you will see groups of 5, 8 or 10 students working in these institutions. You will also see a number of students in the Revolutionary Corps and in the battlefronts.

I wanted to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, that the closure of universities is really a step towards its re-activation and giving it a purpose. Another problem is that our universities must have an effective and useful role

in the administration of the country in the future, whether in factories, farming field, development of scientific research and assistance to social institutions. We have even thought that the teachers training colleges should be planned in such a way that the students learning 2 or 4 years can teach while learning; in this way we can utilize our forces more effectively and would contribute more for the reconstruction of our country. The medical fields of universities are planned in such a way as to cover treatment throughout the country. Similarly, in the technical and industrial field, the curricula will be planned in such a way as to cover our technical and industrial aspects. In other fields, the goal is self-sufficiency and active work of students in various fields.

I want to say a few words about future manpower requirements of universities. Perhaps some professors fear lest their services may not be utilized in the future. I declare explicitly that the Islamic Republic bears no enmity against scientific and intellectual forces. Skills, specialization, and scientific competence of persons will be utilized in the future, even in a better and richer way. But if an individual within universities has another mission to fulfill, instead of teaching, then clearly his place will not be in future universities.

But those who cherish the martyrs' blood, who have understood the revolution of the nation and ummat, those who have comprehended the line of Imam and ummat and want to move along that direction, they are welcome in universities and educational centers. During our short trip along the course of revolution, we have declared repeatedly that we shall welcome those specialists and learned men who wish to return to Iran and serve this nation and who wish to follow the path of martyrs. We shall absorb them within our universities and revolutionary institutions. We hope that those who are faithful to Islam and the revolution return to their country and render services here. There is no question of enmity and confrontation.

With the hope for the final victory of all fighters within the ranks of righteousness against falsehood and the world *estekbar*.

IRAN

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES ACTIVITIES IN IRAN EXAMINED

Tehran JAHANGARD in Persian 2-9 Feb 81 p 7

[Text] Another one of the splendid manifestations of Western capitalism in Iran was the representation of foreign airline companies, such as Pan American, British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, KLM, etc. As a result of their presence, a considerable amount of currency was always leaving the country. In the wake of the Iranian people's revolution, the events of the occupation of the U.S. spyhouse and the severance of many dependencies, these agencies closed or their work activity was reduced.

Before the revolution there were 27 airline companies active in Iran, of which Pan American was one of the most powerful. Following the capture of the U.S. spy nest it had to close. Although after it had closed this company continued its work in a closed room for the sake of its international obligations, it is now completely shut down. (The office representing the Israeli airline company, El 'Al, also closed during the same revolutionary period.)

Another one of the closed companies is Air Singapore, which shut down as a result of a failure to reach agreement on some commercial and economic issues with Iranian officials and fired all its Iranian employees. Iraq's airline also ceased its activities when relations between Iraq and Iran worsened.

Passing on from these four companies, other foreign airline companies continued to work in Iran by means of their own representatives or agencies until the Iraqi air raid on Tehran.

The air raid on Mehrabad Airport brought about the stoppage of flights and created an abnormal situation. As a result of this situation, the unwise departure of travelers was prevented, and this caused a complete standstill in the business of the airline companies and travel agencies.

As soon as the war began, the remaining companies, predicting the probable continuation of the war and employing their special business sense, began to reduce expenses by firing Iranian employees. The companies themselves believe that they laid these employees off, giving them "good compensation."

JAHANGARD decided to obtain information concerning the current situation of the airline companies, the continuation of their activities and the state of their employees. In this regard we were able to interview several managers from some of the airline companies.

Engineer Shaftey, a manager of British Airways, in explaining why this company had no flights from 22 September 1980 on, reminded us that the operations of the company were on the basis of the government's instructions regarding ticket sales and the prevention of currency from leaving the country. Regarding foreign employees, he added: "We fired our non-Iranian employees, and due to the fact that we had no business whatsoever, we were compelled to lay off 30 percent of our Iranian personnel."

Shaftey, in answer to the question as to whether or not he thought the release of the hostages had had any effect on the company's situation, said: "It is far too soon to draw any conclusions about this matter, but in any case, it will have some effect."

The manager of the KLM company, in response to the above questions, said: "This company was never closed. Rather, due to unsuitable conditions, it had no flights to Iran. As a result, our personnel were reduced 35 percent. However, as soon as the government's policy is announced concerning foreign flights, this company will have flights to Tehran."

Mrs Mirza'i, from Alia Airlines, said: "We have had no sales from the beginning of the war. We laid off 5 employees altogether from our total of 16 employees. As soon as flights begin again, it is planned to rehire those employees." Yuri, a manager of the Aeroflot company, concerning the state of the company's employees, said: "Altogether we had two employees, who are still employed although we have had no flights to Tehran since the war's beginning."

One official from the SAS office in Tehran, concerning the condition of this company after the war, stated: "SAS has been open for the whole time. However, 25 percent of our employees were laid off due to the war. When the situation returns to normal, all of them will be employed." Mr Bacon, speaking for this company, told JAHANGARD: "As far as the reopening of foreign flights is concerned, this totally depends on Mehrabad Airport. Whenever the government announces that security for foreign flights has been established, flights will begin once again."

However, officials of the Iberia company (Spanish airlines) stated that despite the fact that they have had no income whatsoever, all their Iranian employees are employed at full salary, and that whenever permission is granted, flights will start.

The Ariana Airline (Afghanistan) office has sent all its Afghan employees to Afghanistan, and now has absolutely no foreign employees. One company official, in response to the question as to what effect the hostages' release would have on them said: "It will not have much effect in this area. It depends purely on the Iranian government's policy."

Mohajer of the Air India office said in this regard: "We have no flights at all, and we only sell tickets to persons who want to go to the far east, Australia or the United States." Concerning the effect of the release of the U.S. spies on their business, he said: "This matter will have a considerable effect worldwide, and it will certainly make foreign travelers more optimistic about traveling to Iran."

We contacted the office of the Sabena Airlines company in order to find out their views. Petrosian, the manager of Sabena in Iran, in response to our question, said: "We have not had notable activity from 21 September 1980. The decision to restart

flights is purely the responsibility of the central office in Brussels." Concerning Iranian employees, he said: "We were compelled to lay off all our Iranian employees from the end of January, 1981, and we have continued our work with a limited work force." He emphasized: "This depends completely on the current situation, and as soon as our flights begin again, we will recall all our employees."

Kampani, a manager of Lufthansa airlines, in this regard said: "From the war's beginning until now we have laid off 24 persons, none of whom was dissatisfied. If flights do not start up again, perhaps we will lay off some more. This was a decision that all the companies made together, and the Ministry of Labor was also kept informed. Similarly, the Union of Airline Agency Employees was also informed about the action." He furthermore expressed hope that the airport would reopen as soon as possible.

9597

CSO: 4906

RAILWAYS PLAN IMPROVEMENTS DESPITE DIFFICULTIES

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Mar 81 p 3

[Text]

TEHRAN, March 9 (Parv) — Cylinder and cylinder heads manufactured by the Iranian Railways will be ready for marketing during the second half of the next year, said Seyyed Mahmood Alizadeh, while speaking on the self-sufficiency of the Iranian Railways.

He further said, "We are facing a shortage of spare parts. Most of the rings we are using are old and we have used them many times. There is also a shortage of washers. For these reasons, diesel engines are not serviceable and this is the reason why trains are not running on schedule."

Alizadeh added: "During the current year, railways had availed of a grant from the government and at present, we are carrying out a great job. So far, 100 washers have been manufactured in Isfahan and Tehran Railway workshops; various cylinders, cylinders heads and rings are also under production and Inshallah, during the second half of next year, railways will be able to market these products."

Later, Alizadeh, referring to the income of Iranian Railways said, "It has increased this year". Speaking of Railway staff, he said,

"Since the beginning of the revolution, 5,300 persons have been retired and 774 persons have been employed as trainees."

"Iran purchased 20 diesel and 8 electric locomotives from Yugoslavia during the current year.

These locomotives are for freight-trains and will be operated on Tabriz-Jolfa route", said Alizadeh.

Referring to the future plans of the Iranian Railways, Alizadeh said, "The total length of railway lines in Iran is 4,600 kilometers. 1,250 kilometers of this line need repairs which will be carried out under a six-year plan. Another extension plan is under consideration. New railway lines will be laid between Haft Tapeh and Demchah in Khuzestan to connect the Karoon Agricultural and Industrial Complex. The length of this line is 46 kilometers, 30 kilometers of it and a train station, has already been constructed during the current year. 100 kilometers of railway lines will be laid between Garmsar and Semnan next year. Seventy five percent of the construction work of 1000 railway staff quarters which began two years ago is now completed. The remaining 25% will be completed next year."

"The most important items the railways need are stone ballast and sleepers. These items have always been in short supply. This year the Iranian Railways signed a contract with the Mostazafin Foundation which designated five of its workshops for the supply of these items and has supplied 80,000 sq. meters of stone ballast. The Railways itself has managed to arrange 250,000 sleepers", concluded Alizadeh.

INCREASED PRODUCTION CAPACITY PUSHED

Milk Plant in Rasht

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 81 p 6

[Report by KEYHAN Correspondent]

[Text] Rasht--Milk production of the pasteurized milk plant of Rasht increased to 18 tons and if certain minor repairs are done, production of the plant would be doubled.

Engineer Mir Abdulghani Naghibai, manager of the Gilan plant, stated in an interview with our KEYHAN reporter: "The pasteurized milk plant belonged to a capitalist during Satan's regime. Ever since the commencement of the revolution, a spiritual change was effectuated within the plant and such acts as speeches, frequent sessions, mass prayers and reviewing difficulties of workers, transformed the plant from a materialistic outlook into a spiritual one and workers are laboring day and night with a view to providing the needs of people. Also we envisaged professional classification for workers and augmentation of wages.

"By all-out activities of workers, production of the plant, which had amounted to 7 tons per day, has now increased to 18 tons."

He asked responsible officials to act in order to increase the welfare of the workers of this plant and provide housing for them. In another part of his remarks, the manager of the Rasht pasteurized milk plant stated: "Workers and employees of the plant total 75 persons and they are trying with all their might to increase the production of the plant. For example, production of milk in packets was increased from 4 to 9 tons, yogurt from 2 to 6 tons and Dugh [a liquid made with yogurt and water] to 3 tons. However, total production is less than demand and we are faced with a 16-ton shortage of pasteurized products. We hope to eliminate this shortage by adding further plants." He asked the people of Rasht to desist from drinking more milk than necessary.

Engineer Naghibai added: "Most defenseless people of the south, have been transferred to Anzali port and a great deal of pasteurized products are allocated to these guests. If the responsible officials put a packeting machine at our disposal, we could double the production of the plant."

The manager of the Rasht pasteurized milk plant referred to the situation of the plant and stated: "I assumed the responsibility of this plant in Bahman [21 January-20 February] by order of the governor general of Gilan. The previous director general of this plant is under legal prosecution. According to the statement of the representative of the public prosecutor, this company owes approximately four times its production to the government. We demand that the responsible officials prosecute according to religious laws all persons who were associated with this plant and had plundered the treasury of peoples."

In conclusion, he stated that the necessary action should be taken as soon as possible to expand the plant to 150 tons at a cost of 250 million tumans. If necessary measures are not taken to repair this huge complex which is situated 14 kilometers outside the industrial city of Rasht, its electrical circuits may become inoperable.

Gas Refinery in Fars

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Feb 81 p 13

[Text] The largest gas refinery will be built in "Kangan, Fars" and gas produced in this refinery will be utilized in various industries including the country's petrochemical complex. This refinery will be exploited in two phases and at the end of the first phase, 40 million cubic meters of natural gas will be furnished daily to the country's gas network.

Building of this refinery started yesterday on the occasion of the anniversary of the Iranian revolution in a ceremony with the participation of engineer Hassan Sadat, acting head and one of the directors of the Oil Ministry.

Forty-five gas wells with a daily revenue of 25.25 million tumans will be dug in order to supply the needs of this refinery. All executive operations for building this refinery will be undertaken by Iranian technicians and engineers and 90 percent of the equipment required for this refinery has already been purchased prior to and during the period of economic sanctions imposed against Iran. Some machinery was even built in 1981 and sold to Iran and the economic sanctions of the Western countries did not have any effects on purchases related to needed refinery equipment. Gas produced by this refinery will be consumed by various industries including the country's petrochemical industry.

This refinery will be built in two phases on 500,000 square meters situated 250 kilometers away from Bushehr. With the completion of each phase, 40 million cubic meter of gas (a total of 80 million cubic meter) will be furnished to the country's gas network. The first stage of the refinery (Naz phase) will be completed in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] and the second stage (Kangan phase) will become operational in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987]. A small town comprising 1,200 houses with all welfare and educational installations will be built beside this refinery in order to house the personnel of the refinery and 1,000 workers, technicians and engineers will be working in this refinery when it becomes operational.

Engineer Mehdi Khani, an engineering affairs official of the Kangan natural gas project referred to broader services of the project and stated: "Aside from providing the country with energy in future years, which would be the most important problem for Iran, creation of this refinery will enable all villages and towns close to the Kangan refinery to benefit from natural gas, constant and sufficient electric power, healthy drinking water and well-built roads. On the other hand, the Kangan gas refinery will be able to absorb human resources at various levels and thereby solve a major portion of the unemployment problem in the area. On the whole, creation of the refinery will prove to be an important factor in various developments of Fars and Bushehr regions.

Ball Bearing Factory

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Feb 81 p 14

[Text] In order to increase production and reach target of a million ball bearings per year, a delegation will soon be leaving for Sweden in order to negotiate and obtain needed primary material. The Iran Ball Bearing Co will provide ball bearings needed for the automobile industry and will also meet most of the needs of industries which require ball bearings.

At present, approximately 120 types of ball bearings and typer roller bearings is being produced in Iran for vehicle industries and other industrial consumers. The director general of the Iran Ball Bearing Co said: "We depend on the expertise and efficiency of Iranians. Goods produced after the revolution with the assistance of Iranian workers are ideal and up to international standards."

As the Iran Ball Bearing Co is among the successful factories after the revolution and has been able to coordinate its production with needs of the vehicle industry and other industries requiring ball bearings. By making use of the knowledge, expertise and efficiency of Iranians, this plant has taken an important step in eliminating dependence and this prompted us to talk to one of the responsible officials of this company.

Hassan Khata'i, director general of the Iran Ball Bearing Co, who assumed this post after the revolution, gave an introductory statement in this interview and emphasized "moving toward self-sufficiency, eliminating dependence and making the country independent of foreign products, has been one of the targets of the Islamic Revolution. After the revolution, Iran depends, more than anything, on the ideas of its experts and the powerful arms of its workers. Our factory, as a small part of Islamic Iran, is treading toward realization of this aspiration. After the revolution of 22 Bahman 57 [12 February 1979] all efforts of employees of the company have been concentrated on producing more and making the country self-sufficient in ball bearings." He then described the activities of the company and said: "This factory was built 11 years ago in the industrial town of Tabriz and presently, by utilizing the best techniques of production and the most efficient personnel, has been able to bring to market the best quality ball bearings to meet the industrial needs of country."

During years of continuous functioning, this industrial unit, has been able to coordinate itself with the needs of vehicle-producing and other industries needing ball bearings. By utilizing accurate plans and other possibilities available to it after the revolution (such as, prohibiting importation of similar ball bearings from abroad) this plant has been able to consolidate its position and extend its activities.

Prior to the activities of this company, all the country's industries were obliged to import all their ball bearing requirements from abroad at great expense and wastage of time. Often these goods did not reach them in time, causing great loss to them and consequently, to our country. In order to meet this need, the company commenced its efforts and at present, by possessing sufficient machine tools and technical personnel with sufficient experience and knowledge, is able to produce over 120 types of ball bearings and "roller bearings" of good quality at world standards and put these products at the disposal of industries and consumers.

History of Activities of Company

We asked Mr Khatai about the history of the activities of the company, its successes and achievements by workers of this productive industrial unit during years of activities. He answered these questions as follows:

"This factory was established with foreign participation on 25 Sep 1969. Until the victory of the revolution, this factory was almost under the control of foreigners. Swedes had all phases of production and manufacture of goods of this industrial unit under their supervision. They used to stop our path to growth by any means and it is necessary to state that they had really made the factory dependent on themselves. However, after victorious the Islamic Revolution of Iran, foreign experts were removed from the work and production scene and all work was entrusted to Iranian experts, technicians and workers. They also succeeded in commencing operations of factory in a very satisfactory manner, produced and presented products at Swedish S.K.F. standards." He added, "Production by Iranian personnel was extremely superior and quality of products after the revolution, which were subjected to testing in Sweden, was 100 percent ideal and thoroughly approved by the Swedes."

Level of Production

"Unfortunately ball bearings were smuggled or imported into the country by obtaining illegal permits and this fact culminated in severe losses to our factory and led to decreasing the level of production, so much so that in recent years, this company twice suffered losses and a decrease in capital. However, at present, apart from the aptitude and efforts of Iranian workers and experts committed to the revolution, the government's overall policy of preventing importation of ball bearings to the country together with the encouragement given to Iranian industrial units have culminated in significantly increasing production of the Iranian Ball Bearing Co. A glance at the plant's production statistics of past years and this year corroborates this claim. This factory produced 1.4 million ball bearings during the year 57 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] and in the year 58 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] it produced 1.6 million ball bearings while during the current year this production was increased to border on 2 million ball bearings per year. However, it must be admitted that this level of production does not satisfy me and my colleagues and also it does not meet all the country's industrial needs. Thus in order to achieve this objective and increase production levels, plans and programs have been prepared for next year so as to raise the level of production to 4 million ball bearings per year."

Obtaining Primary Material for 5 Million Ball Bearings

The director general of the Iran Ball Bearing Co answered questions about provisions made to achieve the maximum production capacity of the plant (5 million ball bearings per year) and stated: "Soon a company delegation will go to Sweden in order to review technical contracts concluded with the Swedish S.K.F. Co and obtain the needed primary material in order to raise production up to the level of 5 million ball bearings per year."

Marketing Technique

"Earlier, the Iran Ball Bearing Co used to supply consumers with its products via intermediaries but now is trying to eliminate the role of intermediaries, in accordance with the policy of government and supply goods directly from producer to consumers. We have also eliminated the hands of intermediaries and directly supply consumers with our products. Earlier, this fact was made known to the general public through newspapers."

Shareholders of Company

"Shares of this company are 100 percent owned by Iran and as far as companies who are shareholders of this plant, I must emphasize that at present 49 percent belong to the Iran National Co, 50 percent to the Industrial and Mining Bank and the rest, which is insignificant, belong to the Plan and Budget Organization and the Isfahan Cement Industry."

Management of Company

The director general of the Iran Ball Bearing Co referred to the constitution of members of the board of directors and the manner of management of the company and pointed out: "At present this factory is being run by a five-member board of directors. Iraj Soltani and Seyyed 'Ali Marashi, on behalf of the Industrial and Mining Bank and Mohamad Reza Shamschiri and Qolamreza Shavandi from the Iran National Factories are on the board of directors. I (Hassan Khata'i) as director general am collaborating with the other four members."

Number of Personnel and Recreation Facilities

At present, there are 370 employees in the plant and they all profit from legal benefits and recreational facilities. Workers of this unit comprise elements faithful to the revolution and are fulfilling their duties well with sincerity and diligence. In order to pay their debts to the revolution, they try their hardest to ensure that their products are superior from the qualitative and quantitative points of view.

9797

CSO: 4906

ARAB JOURNAL CITES MORAL DETERIORATION IN ARMED FORCES

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 7 Jan 81 pp 44-45

[Article: "Moral and Social Deterioration Invades the Zionist Army"]

[Text] In recent months incidents of suicide among personnel in the Zionist army have steadily increased, and according to sources within Zionist circles, the number has reached 16. The extent of this sudden major change in the makeup of the Zionist military service has already been reflected abroad in support and backing for it as the Zionist state and settlement society's most progressive and effective representative.

Statistics published by the Ministry of Health in Jerusalem affirmed that during the last year there were 270 cases of suicide and 1560 attempted suicides. And while 60 percent of these were civilians, the remaining 40 percent were either soldiers or military reservists of the Zionist army. These Zionist circles tried to conceal the motives and real causes that drive one to suicide, especially the increase in cases of suicide within the military service. Since it is well-known that conscription into this organization is based on the one hand on ideological motives and on the other on offering an open atmosphere that draws men and women conscripts to join the army to get some of the many benefits that it offers. At a time when the proportion of these benefits is declining in other institutions within the Zionist entity, this atmosphere--which aims at filling the military service with psychologically and ideologically motivated conscripts in addition to experienced and technically trained ones--has begun to backfire and to transform the military service into a den of debauchery, smuggling, and drug abuse. This is a factor that places persistent pressure on the fabric of the military, especially at its base. This has led more and more to various forms of deviance, not the least of which is suicide.

There is a steadily increasing incidence of civilian crime within the army and a secret committee has been formed to deal with and treat it. Authorities have not openly acknowledged this so as to avoid an official admission of this serious problem by the military command. Meanwhile the Chiefs of Staff of the enemy's army have ordered the creation of what they call an instructional program which has begun to be applied in the ranks of the Zionist army. This represents no more than a program of treatment for nearly 100,000 deviants who are either directly or indirectly connected with the military, and who comprise the core

of the social and moral corruption within it. In the large Zionist military camps the phenomenon of theft of civilian cars by soldiers (cars which they use to take their leaves with) has turned into such a chronic practice that it is no longer looked on as a serious breach of the law. It has even become a source of additional profit for these soldiers who have begun to deal in cars which they have stripped for spare parts, which are sold to car-theft syndicates.

It is worth noting with these few examples that they indicate a general trend that has begun to dominate the Zionist military organization and which consists of more than one element of deviance within the military. The most significant indications of this are acts of sexual deviance, accompanied by the use of and trade in narcotics both inside and outside the service.

The connection between the Zionist army and narcotics use has become well-known and very obvious, since the largest proportion of drug users are collected together--for protection--within the military service. Zionist security forces have previously acknowledged that Zion's soldiers commit more than 60 percent of all criminal acts related to drugs and narcotics use that were discovered last year. And when the matter reaches the intelligence services responsible for these matters it becomes clear that the official protection of these narcotics dealers and users is not limited solely to individuals within the military command but extends as well to intelligence officers. This is what happened when the military police arrested 2 youths peddling hashish. They confessed that their patron was a key officer with the rank of major in intelligence and that he arranged for directing and protecting them. When the police tried to pull together the loose ends, orders came from the top to stop the investigations, which were then forcibly transformed into secret investigations that were allowed to die in the senior ranks of the military command by officers who were in the pay of the drug racketeers.

In the past some soldiers used to take narcotics in order to ensure their discharge from the army. Today the phenomenon has become widespread within the armed services and is practiced all but openly, especially during vacations and leaves by men and women reservists and during the rest period on bases. Thus there's been a steady increase in the number of soldiers brought before the courts accused of drug and narcotics use. However, the few of them that are discharged from the army or are given stiff prison terms when the charges against them are proved, have resulted in yet another problem that bears on the high command of the enemy army. That is the problem of having to turn many potential recruits away from joining the army while at the same time the army command wants to attract them to join. Recently General Eytan said about this problem: "With regard to our increasing need for manpower we must take anyone we can lay our hands on. We cannot afford to be choosy when there is a shortfall."

Drug use lends itself to sexual scandals at both the officer and rank and file levels of the enemy's army. On this matter circles in the Zionist state have previously noted that 1127 rapes were committed by soldiers against female soldiers, university students, tourists, and foreign volunteers. The command of the enemy's army has not taken any exceptional measures to deal with this phenomenon, but instead tried to cover it up when "Daliazar" who is responsible

for the women's corps announced: "We are not opposed to the mixing of male and female enlistees but that must be done with full understanding because military laws do not prohibit mixing other than mixed sleeping arrangements."

In reality this issue is not limited to the words of this woman in charge of female soldiers, for these sexually integrated parties that take place on military bases have become a means of enticing both male and female soldiers to enlist and then re-enlist in the military service. This has been confirmed in the book entitled "the Hans Report" published by the college of Social Science at Arhus University in Denmark. After his friend spent 2 months in the Naram kibbutz in the Ashqelon area, Hans said in his book, "he could say with all objectivity that the Israeli kibbutz was equivalent to a brothel." He adds: "What is generally called sexual freedom in Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries is nothing in contrast to what goes on and what he witnessed in the Israeli kibbutz. Hundreds of young men and women from different countries of Europe, Denmark included, visit the kibbutzim with special privileges. They pass some weeks or months there mixing work with pleasure." Hans describes these kibbutzes by saying that they have reached a degree of moral corruption that exceeds description.

The other and more widespread phenomenon is the theft of arms which recently has included the theft of everything found in military ordnance depots. Soldiers can obtain or sell these arms either in the civilian markets or on the black market. What is especially remarkable here is that civilian crime syndicates are beginning to appear that rely for their arms on the theft by soldiers of weapons out of Zionist army depots. And yet when these soldiers have completed the term of service or when their term of conscription is up they are brought into these crime syndicates in order to guard their interests in running smuggling operations or a wide range of dealing in or use of narcotics.

This is the way the military service looks on the inside. It is a picture which is not isolated from the settlement society as a whole, which is gradually being transformed into a degenerate society that accepts all sorts of moral corruption and crime; this happens as a result of all the successive shocks that have rocked that society--particularly the shocks to the military service.

9587

CSO: 4802

SHELI MK VIEWS PALESTINIAN ISSUES

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 15-21 Feb 81 p 15

[Article by John Richardson]

[Text]

On February 16 Walid Sadeq, a Palestinian Arab from Taybe in the Triangle, will take the oath at the Israeli Knesset to become the member for the left-Zionist Sheli party. He replaces Uri Avneri who is stepping down under the party's rotation agreement.

★ ★ ★

Going to the Knesset to talk to a Palestinian is a rather peculiar experience. Having previously phoned for an appointment I approached the heavily guarded entrance to the building and informed the guard that I wanted to see Walid Sadeq.

"Who?" he asked, a note of disbelief in his voice.

"Walid Sadeq," I said speaking slower and more clearly in case he hadn't heard me the first time.

"Walid...?" questioned the now perplexed custodian of the gate. He looked as if he was going to have me thrown out, so I quickly interjected.

"He's going to be a member of Sheli."

"Ahh, Sheli," the guard said, all smiles now. After assuring him that I wasn't carrying a knife, I was given a pass and admitted to the inner-sanctuary.

★ ★ ★

Walid Sadeq describes his membership in Sheli, a self-defined Zionist party, as "a most sensitive point." He told AL-Fajr that he joined the party because its platform satisfies his aspirations as an Israeli Arab in Israel. "I have two goals in joining the party," he said. "I want equality for Jews and Arabs regardless of religion, and as a Palestinian I would like, as far as I am able, to help the Palestinians obtain self-determination and the state they would like."

To justify his membership in Sheli, Walid Sadeq differentiates "between Zionism and Zionism." He believes that Sheli's Zionism differs from typical Zionism in that it doesn't mean expulsion, confiscation or discrimination. While in the Knesset he hopes to speak out in opposition to

the whole gamut of discriminatory laws and practices of the Israeli state. "I will raise my voice against land confiscation, against discrimination in economic, agricultural, and educational decisions, and against the lack of industrialization in Palestinian villages.

Sadeq's other goal, he explained, is to work for peace. "I want to raise my voice as both an Israeli citizen and an Arab with a Palestinian identity. If I can show Israelis the right way, I will have completed my mission."

Sadeq estimated that Sheli received 27,000 votes at the last election (in 1976), of which only 2 percent came from Palestinians. He attributed the meagre support of Palestinians for Sheli to the fact that few had heard of the party (it was only established 50 days before the election). He added that the Palestinian population has always felt a basic antipathy towards Zionist parties in Israel. "Also we couldn't offer material incentives like the

large Zionist parties," he told *Al-Fajr*. Our voters turn to us for purely ideological reasons." Walid Sadeq claimed that all other parties offer bribes in the form of influence or jobs to their supporters in order to attract votes. "I'm ashamed to say that one of the National Religious Party's seats in the Knesset has come as a result of Arab votes." Asked why he thought so many Palestinians voted for Rakah, (Israel's Communist Party) Walid Sadeq explained that for the past 32 years Rakah was the only party to which Arabs could turn to protest discrimination against them. "Support for Rakah is now deeply rooted in the community and very difficult to oppose," he said, adding that "their fronts are dependent on family votes as well."

Several weeks ago, Khalil Nakhleh stated in *Al-Fajr* that ultimately all Zionist parties will combine to oppose non-Zionist parties. When asked to comment on this, Sadeq dismissed this idea, saying that like most Palestinians, Nakhleh cannot distinguish between "the different sorts of Zionism." Likewise, Walid Sadeq dismisses those who claim, like the Bishop of

Namibia who visited Palestine a few months ago, that there can be no dialogue between oppressor and oppressed.

Walid Sadeq believes, above all, in the necessity of dialogue, peace and the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state. This belief helps him to resolve the inner conflicts between his identity as both a Palestinian and an Israeli. When asked what benefit he thought the people of Taybe would gain from the establishment of a Palestinian state, he stressed the psychological and emotional impact the new state would have. "The frustration I have as a citizen of Israel will disappear," he said. "I will have a commitment to Palestine and a commitment as a citizen of the state in which I live." Sadeq added that the process of dialogue and negotiation needed to establish a Palestinian state would also bring about the end of other "repressive" aspects of the Zionist state. "I expect that eventually the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund, the Israel Lands Authority and the World Zionist Organisation will serve all Israelis equally without reference to religion," he stated.

The new Knesset member like the rest of his party was very encouraged by the recent statements and letters of Issam Sartawi (see pages 10 and 11) which identified Sheli as the leader of the Zionist peace bloc. Sadeq said that the contradiction between Sartawi's letters to Sheli and Labadie's recent statement in Brussels that Palestinian Arabs in Israel ought to vote for Rakah at the next elections indicates the unfortunate lack of a unified policy in the PLO. "But," he went on, "I give more credit to Sartawi, who is a political advisor to Yasser Arafat, than Labadie."

Although Walid Sadeq is looking forward to his five months in the Knesset he admits from the outset, that his lone voice is unlikely to affect the situation very much. "In terms of success, I will be happy if I manage to achieve anything at all in the programme I outlined above."

If indeed he does speak out on the issues outlined above, it is likely that the next time he gets a visitor at the Knesset, the guards will know his name.

ELIMINATION OF OFFICIAL USE OF ARABIC PROPOSED

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 8-14 Feb 81 p 3

[Text]

The Israeli Parliamentary Education Committee is considering a bill which would make Hebrew the only official state language. The bill, proposed by Tehiya MK Moshe Shamir two months ago, was presented to the Knesset by the Justice Minister, Moshe Nissim, on Tuesday, January 27. The bill proposes the cancellation of article 82 of the "Royal System in Palestine 1922" (Mandate British Law) which lays down that Hebrew, Arabic and English be used as official languages in the country. (English was removed from the statute in 1948.)

In the course of the debate on the proposed bill, Rakah MK Tawfiq Toubi described it as a "severe violation of the basic rights of the Arabs in Israel and constitutes a new step towards degeneration into racism." The bill, if Arabic would be removed

from all government forms and civil servants would not be obligated to communicate in Arabic with non-Hebrew speaking Palestinian clients.

Commenting on the implications of the new bill, Emil Touma, an Arab historian and member of the Central Committee of the Israeli Communist Party (Rakah) told *Al-Fajr*, "Reality teaches us that the government institutions don't respect the Arabic language as the law requires." There are several ministries which ignore the legal and official use of Arabic, and oblige Arab citizens to use Hebrew in their contacts with them. For instance, Arabic does not appear on traffic signs, and often not even on directional signs pointing to Arab villages." "The aim of this new racist proposal," Touma concluded, "is the erosion of the Arab language and the 'Judaization' of Arab citizens."

QUALITY OF EDUCATION FALLING IN ARAB COMMUNITY

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 8-14 Feb 81 p 14

[Article by Zuhair Sabbagh]

[Text] Despite the fact that the total number of students — since the inception of Israel in 1948 — has been doubled 14 times, the qualitative aspect of education in the Palestinian sector has been constantly deteriorating. Actually, it is impossible to describe the situation of education inside the Palestinian school system, except as politically rotten, stifled, alienating, non-creative and counter-productive.

Besides being academically unqualified in many cases, a large number of Palestinian teachers — 50% in 1977 are likely to possess a mentality of jailors rather than that of proper educators. A sizeable number of Palestinian students are more like powerless and apathetic inmates than healthy humans who aspire for proper education and value analytical thinking, creativity and freedom of thought.

Many existing Palestinian schools resemble reformatories instead of proper schools. Others are composed of randomly scattered, rented rooms

spread all over a village or town. In addition Palestinian schools are severely overcrowded, lacking an estimated total of 5000 rooms. Many do not have appropriate textbooks, educational equipment, laboratories, sports fields, gymnasiums, libraries, meeting halls, offices, counselors, clinics, cafeterias and even appropriate toilet facilities. Existing Palestinian schools operate on meagre budgets, follow a miseducational curriculum, employ a low academic level of teachers and principals, suffer from inefficient administration and examination by low level inspectors of 'education.'

Palestinian Students

According to the most recent statistics, the total number of students in Israel is 1,170,957, out of which 170,105 are Palestinians. Although the percentage of Palestinians in Israel is close to 16%, yet the percentage of Palestinian students is only 14.5%. The percentage of Palestinian students as compared with Jewish students shows a marked tendency to decrease as the educational

level increases.

A comparable representation of Palestinian and Jewish students enrolled on various educational institutions is shown below

The very low percentage of Palestinians in Israeli educational institutions is a further indication of the racial discrimination practiced against Palestinian students. Palestinians are grossly under represented in all but the elementary level educational institutions due to their higher rate of natural growth. Furthermore, the drop-out rate in elementary schools on the West Bank reached 40% in 1979. Compulsory education for students age bracket 5-15 comprises only 81.7%.

Palestinian University Students

Due to the deteriorating situation of the Arab school system, relatively very few Palestinian high-school students can attend a University. Palestinian students face a number of difficulties that are the outcome of a calculated government policy of racial discrimination.

To begin with, only a small minority of Arabs are accepted by Israel's six universities. Many are rejected. The few who are selected often face difficulties in choosing their majors due to a discriminatory policy of ethnic selection pursued by Israeli universities. A number of majors are closed to Palestinian students under the pretext of "security reasons."

Palestinian students encounter more discrimination when applying for financial assistance. Less than 1% of the Arab students receive scholarships. This is used under the pretext that the Palestinian students do not serve in the Israeli armed forces. Furthermore Palestinian students face a severe housing shortage which is also a result of university discrimination. Because of the prevailing chauvinist atmosphere, Palestinian students find it very difficult to rent apartments in the private market. Every academic year begins with housing problems for Palestinian students.

Last year, Prime Minister Begin joined the bandwagon and contributed his share to the ongoing anti-Arab campaign. During a visit to Afula, Begin declared that "Pro-PLO Arab students have no right to study in a Jewish university. They should study in Damascus" He also added that he intends to present a law proposal to the Knesset which prohibits pro-PLO Arab students from studying at Israeli universities. Few months later the Tamir so-

called "Anti-Terror Law" was adopted by the Knesset. It severely punishes anybody who exhibits any sort of "identification or allegiance to the PLO."

Israeli Education Produces workers

The deteriorating situation of the Palestinian school system in Israel is an objective result of Israel's educational policy pursued towards its Palestinian citizens. Education in Israel is segregated from the kindergarten all the way up to the high-school. Only the universities have some semblances of 'integration.' Being separated, the Palestinian educational system is thus motivated and guided by a separate educational policy. This 'educational' policy was designed not to create educated Palestinians, but to produce semi-skilled workers.

This anti-educational policy constitutes an integral part of the general policy which has been in practice since 1948. The aim of the Zionist leaders of Israel was and still is, to proletarianize the entire Palestinian minority. It began with confiscation of land, eviction of fellahin and forceful proletarianization processes.

In short, the educational system in the Palestinian sector is not meant to provide proper education for the Palestinian citizens but the promotion of fresh workers who are pooled, into the unskilled strata of Israel's active labor force.

Level and kind of educational institution	Total No of students	Jewish students	% of Jews	Arab Students	% of Arabs
Total In All	1,170,957	1,000,852	85.5%	170,105	14.5%
Kindergartens	262,580	244,700	93.2%	17,880	6.8%
Elementary Schools	537,098	419,512	78.1%	117,586	21.9%
Special Schools	13,314	12,587	94.6%	727	5.4%
High Schools	158,054	138,250	87.5%	19,804	12.5%
Vocational Schools	70,014	68,164	97.4%	1,850	2.6%
Agricultural Schools	6,096	5,349	87.7%	747	12.3%
Teachers Colleges	12,544	11,979	95.5%	565	4.5%
Non-academic but Post Secondary Institutions	14,217	14,141	99%	76	1%
Other Educational Institutions	92,920	92,600	99.6%	320	0.34%
Universities	55,360	53,360	97.4%	2,000	3.6%

CSO: 4820

BEDOUINS HARRASSED BY LAND AUTHORITY

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 8-14 Feb 81 pp 7-9

[Article by Dani Flixer]

[Text] Since early January tens of thousands of dunums of Beduin cultivated land in the Naqab have been ploughed over by the authorities. The land, leased for the Beduin by the late Sheikh Abu Rabia, is in the Tel Arad area of the Naqab.

The vaccination of Sheikh Hamza' Abu Rabia outside the Holiday Hotel in West Jerusalem early last month caused shock waves through the Jewish establishment. His funeral was attended by trading dignitaries, including the President of the State.

The leaders of Israel all praised the late MK for his loyalty to the state and his role as a Beduin leader. Only days after the speeches ended the Jewish Agency moved in and began to plough up the land on which hundreds of the late Sheikh's tribe as well as his neighbours lived. The president, the former cabinet ministers and party leaders have yet to speak on this matter.

In order to get a clearer picture of the destruction Dani Flixer went to Tel Arad. Here is his report:

More Beduin Lands Gone

Over the past month tens of thousands of dunums of sprouting crops planted by the Beduin in the area of Arad have been and are being systematically destroyed by the Jewish Agency. Helping with the destruction are the Green Patrol Border Police and Israel Lands Authority.

The destruction started shortly after the death of Sheikh Hamad Abu Rabia,

the nominal lessee of the land. With his death all land leases became invalid and the ILA moved in immediately. Although permission had been granted to plant the crops as late as October the ILA did not allow anyone to sign new leases or pay rent on the land after the MK's death.

Most of the Beduin affected by these latest acts held titles to land in other parts

of the Naqab. Soon after the 1948 war, however, they were physically forced off their own land and pushed elsewhere to live and cultivate land leased to them on a yearly basis. Some Beduin were not given any leases at all while Jewish settlers in the same area enjoy 49 year leases. Although destructions had been carried out all month the families *Al-Farj* spoke to remained unaffected.

until the end of January.

On Sunday January 25, 15 tractors belonging to a private contractor and hired by the Jewish Agency together with five Green Patrol and border police armed escort jeeps arrived in Tel Arad and, without any previous warning, started ploughing under vast areas of barley and wheat planted last October. The Tel Arad Beduins came from several tribes and number approximately 700 people in 80 families. Some attempted passive resistance to the destruction but after a show of arms by the escort jeeps they were forced to sit and silently watch as their main source of livelihood was systematically destroyed.

One Beduin resident of the area went the next day, to a lawyer in Beer Sheva. A temporary injunction against the authorities forcing them to stop all work on the land was drawn up and submitted to the Beer Sheva justice of peace on Tuesday. The requested injunction was granted on the spot and was subsequently handed to those responsible at the site. As it turned out the injunction was only requested and granted for part of the disputed land (600 dunums, most of which had already been ploughed up so the work did not stop.

On Tuesday 27 January another injunction was requested and granted this time dealing with a much larger portion of land. When it was handed to David Levanon the ILA's man on the

site, he claimed, according to eyewitnesses, that since the injunction was taken out against the ILA and not the Jewish Agency, which is responsible for the work, it had no meaning. He ordered the contractors to keep on working.

In the face of Levanon's refusal to recognise the court order several Beduin rushed to Arad police station and took policemen with them to Tel Arad. The police orders to halt work were obeyed but as soon as they left the site the contractors continued. They worked through the night to complete the job after a rumour that a further order would be obtained against the Jewish Agency Wednesday morning. One of the supervisors of the destruction told Al Fajr "off the record" that they continued all night specifically to circumvent possible future court orders to protect the remaining area.

By the morning of Thursday, January 29, 3000 dunums, with a history of 25 years of continuous cultivation by the same families, had been ploughed over. Even small vegetable gardens around houses were not spared. That afternoon the court issued a third injunction against both the Jewish Agency and the ILA. The order covered all the disputed land and was, in the words of one Beduin, "worthless."

Disaster

The destruction of these crops is an economic disaster for the poorer Beduin families. Many of them borrowed from other members of the tribe or borrowed money to buy seeds. They do so annually early in the season and traditionally repay the loans after the crop has been harvested and sold. For some the income on their crops is the only supplement they have to the meagre child allowance doled out by the authorities.

The Beduins find themselves leaderless and with the backbone of their economy destroyed by the authorities in a single month. They now have to re-build their whole future. One man summed up his desperation for Al Fajr: "Despite all that has been done to us," "he said," "I have always been a loyal and law abiding citizen. But if the state and its representatives don't keep their own laws, what can we do? Do they want us to die?"

For the other side the regional director of the Jewish Agency, "Mr. Witkon said," "This blessed work was done for the benefit of Jewish settlement."

DIAMOND INDUSTRY HURT BY WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Feb 81 Weekend Supplement pp 10-11, 32

[Article by El'azar Levin: "Gid'on Pat Went to London to Save Israel's Diamond Industry, Which Is Still in Deep Crisis. The Minister Announced the Arrangement, but the Diamond Industrialists Are Not Optimistic. The Present Crisis Is the Worst Ever: Diamonds without Lustre"]

[Text] Doors of glass and steel, sophisticated locks, armed guards, television cameras, and hidden alarm systems protect "Makabi"--not the basketball team, but rather the office building of the same name, the heart of the compound of the diamond exchange in Ramat Gan. The interior is paved with expensive marble, wall to wall carpets, wood panelling, 16 automatic elevators, and tens of millions of dollars worth of diamonds. The contrast between the luxurious interior and the neglected grounds outside is striking. An unfinished bank branch; a patio full of puddles; scaffolds and piles of garbage. In a way, this contrast resembles the state of the Israeli diamond industry in the beginning of 1981: glamorous outwardly, yet threatened by collapse.

Out of 800 workshops, 300 have closed down. Three diamond dealers, one of them a leader in the field, have declared bankruptcy. The diamond exchange hall, recently expanded to double its size to keep up with the work, is deserted most of the time. Diamond dealers are not travelling abroad quite as often. And it seems that less visitors are arriving from abroad. Less deals, less income, less dollars flowing into the coffers of the state. In the plush "Macabi" building many rooms are empty, there is no demand for them. A room which was rented a year or two ago for \$1200, is now being offered for 420 a month, and no one is interested. An atmosphere of uncertainty and gloom surrounds the several thousands of people engaged in this industry, one of the leading industries of the Israeli economy.

Those who look for a hidden meaning may be interested to know that the present crisis, the most serious one in the history of the industry, came about during a time of upswing. In 1977, the demand for diamonds increased in the entire world. The crisis of the dollar shifted interest from currency to more stable assets. The price of gold reached a record high, and, similarly, the price of diamonds went up. The demand for the precious stones grew and the manufacturers were willing to pay a high price for raw materials to increase production. Others, including speculators, bought unpolished diamonds as an investment. The assumption was that, like gold, the price of diamonds will go up by several hundreds percent in a short time.

Indeed, in 1977 rough diamonds went up in value, in British pounds, some 60 percent--unprecedented rise, and the demand kept rising.

In January 1978, I met in the streets of Antwerp two Israeli friends who deal in diamonds. "We came here to look for rough diamonds," they said without batting an eyelash. The three exchanges of Antwerp worked overtime to keep up with the demand. The Syndicate headquarters at Chester House in London set a price almost every month for the stones it distributed, as the leading world supplier of rough diamonds. The marketplace came up with even higher prices.

The price of diamonds nearly doubled in 2 years. One carat (0.2 gram) polished diamond of the melee variety which is common in the Israeli industry, cost about \$600 as compared to \$300 2 years ago.

It turned out, as in other cases in economic history, that the industry has dug its own grave. The prices of diamonds rose so much that the demand kept going down. Melee, on which Israel has the world monopoly, is a popular stone, used by middle class women for the wedding rings, or for festive earrings. This class is the one most affected by rise in cost and economic crises. When the price of stones doubled, women and their lovers started buying less diamonds. It is enough to have a dozen stones in a ring, instead of twenty. Or one may use twenty stones of lesser value, less clean, with more flaws, hence cheaper.

Selling at a Loss

Unemployment has affected sales. With eight million unemployed in the U.S., 2.5 million unemployed in England, and one million unemployed in Germany, jewelry and diamond sales are down. In addition, the price of gold has made things harder for the industry. When an ounce of gold costs \$550-600, the piece of jewelry gets too expensive to put diamonds into it. One may get a 22 carat wedding band and add the diamonds later.

And so the world demand for diamonds changed. One should point out that it is not true that the market is paralyzed, and no one buys diamonds. The demand is still great, but less than before. There is demand for cheaper items, flawed diamonds (which can only be detected with a magnifying glass), which are half price. Melee, for example, induces dozens of types and sub-types, with 58 facets as the only common denominator. There are differences in size, color, cut, and light reflection, as well as number and shape of flaws.

The change in the trend did not happen all at once. It took 2 years. In Israel, the old foxes sensed what was coming, and prepared themselves for a low, which follows the peak. The young stars, however, who entered the industry in the past 5 years, did not always realize what was about to happen. They opened workshops and offices, bought and sold diamonds, and did not understand the changing trends of the market. In some cases they only became aware of it after it was too late.

Meanwhile, Israel has had to face two new serious competitors in the melee stone market. One is the Soviet Union, which has diamond mines in the Ural and extracts large quantities. Last year, when the Soviet superpower needed hundreds of millions of dollars to buy large quantities of wheat and sugar in London, it sold gold and diamonds to the Capitalistic world to raise the necessary dollars and British pounds. It flooded the world with melee stones and caused the price to go down. At the other end of the political map, South Africa, the world's leader in diamonds, started

producing melee stones, and the government is subsidizing production by providing a ridiculous low interest rate of 6 percent per year. While a few years ago Israel controlled 80 percent of the world market in melee stones, which is the main product of the diamond industry in Israel, today its share is about 60 percent.

The Israeli diamond dealer, who roamed the streets of Antwerp 3 years ago looking for rough diamonds, might have bought, for instance, \$100,000 lot of stones. He brought it to Israel and might have polished it or kept it in its natural state, as a long range investment. In either case, he needed \$100,000 to pay the Belgian seller. The way to secure the money is by depositing the diamonds in one of the banks which work with the industry--Igud, Barclas, or Mizrahi--and obtaining the loan against the diamonds.

Banks are not eager to lend the money. The bank's appraiser determines the value of the diamonds, and downgrades the value. The diamond dealer is given 70 percent of the appraisal. In this case, let us assume that the diamonds were appraised at \$90,000. The credit offered is \$63,000. The rest, \$37,000, the dealer has to finance on his own.

As long as the market is doing well, the financing does not worry the dealer. If he bought the diamonds as an investment, he waits for a few months, and when the price goes up, he sells them at a profit. If he bought them for production, he withdraws them from the bank and takes them to the workshop (although the diamonds are tied to the loan, there is a legal arrangement to release them for production). He works them, sells them to a broker-exporter for a profit, and gets back the loan and the interest. But when the world demand goes down, because of the economic crisis, and when the Soviet Union and South Africa flood the market with competing merchandise, thus causing prices to go down, the Israeli dealer has a problem: If he worked the diamonds, he may find out that the price in foreign markets does not cover the production and financing. If he bought diamonds as an investment, to be sold in their natural state, he may find out that the market has changed and there is no demand for his merchandise. This is in effect what has happened.

Thus dozens of Israeli diamond dealers have been left with a large supply of diamonds, rough or polished, which can only be sold at a loss. The banks, it should be pointed out, are not worried. On the contrary, they are quite pleased with the situation. The interest which the diamond dealers pay is 70 percent of the Eurodollars plus 1.5 percent; this interest is now in effect 15 percent as compared to 20 percent interest in the U.S. for loans in dollars. As long as business is good, this preferred interest rate offered by the Israel Bank helps the diamond dealers and stimulates the industry. But when business is bad and the merchandise does not move, this rate of interest makes things difficult for the diamond dealer, both manufacturer and exporter. The bank does not care, since it keeps collecting interest, and the diamond dealer has to pay more and more. The diamond dealer may not pay the debt? It doesn't matter. If the bank gave the diamond dealer a loan of \$63,000, the diamonds are worth \$100,000; no matter how high the interest, the bank almost without a doubt can get back all its money by using the security of the diamonds.

The decline in the diamond industry is not limited to Israel. The inflation, the slowdown, the rise in cost of fuel and energy, the rise in interest, are common to the entire Western world, which has led to the decline in demand across the board.

India used to employ, utilizing primitive methods, 300,000 workers in producing small stones; now their number has gone down to 100,000 while hundreds, if not thousands of enterprises have been closed down. Industrialized and advanced Belgium has experienced a decline from 11,000 workers 3 years ago to 3,000 today. In New York, the center of the big stones, one can get on 47th Street a "D" stone (the finest of diamonds, a clean blue-white stone), for a bargain price of only \$42,500, compared to \$55,000 2 years ago. Cheap indeed!

When the Israeli manufacturers, exporters and dealers realized that the demand was declining, they tried to switch to lesser quality melee stones, which can be sold for \$250-300 a carat, which are more in demand. Yet Israel depends on the London Syndicate for its rough diamonds, which insists on sending its 50 subscribers in Israel (who distribute the merchandise among many others) stones of a higher quality. The subscribers begged the big supplier: Please, give us more inferior merchandise, less expensive, which we can market! These requests have not been heeded. At the present moment Minister of Industry Gid'on Pat and his director general Yoram Ziv are visiting the directors of the "Israeli Desk" at the London Syndicate, hoping to convince the British to please sell us less expensive merchandise!

Thus, both manufacturers and dealers are now in a double and triple bind. A manufacturer gets a shipment or set of diamonds from London which includes choice rare stones. He knows that if he works everything, he may be able to sell in the traditional markets perhaps one fourth of the production, and that too slowly and with difficulties. What shall he do with the rest? If he deposits it in the bank, he will have to pay 15 percent a year interest, in dollars, to finance the supply. There are manufacturers--one of the leaders on the industry told me in secret--who try to get rid of the Syndicate merchandise and sell it to a third party, even at a loss. No manufacturer--my source told me--is readily willing to tell the Syndicate he is willing to forego the shipment; this would automatically eliminate him from the list, and he will then have to wait his turn, sometimes for years, to rejoin the list.

Such a manufacturer may have to close down his shop, or close down one out of two or three. This means, of course, leaving the industry. He will not readily do such a thing. He has expert workers in whom he has invested many months of training, and he will lose them. But in a declining market he may have no choice. Thus during the past 2 years one shop after another has closed down. Last year, when even Aryeh Ketzeff, the chairman of the association of diamond manufacturers closed his business, everyone realized that the real crisis is imminent. He was not the only one of the major ones who closed down. It is estimated some 8,000 workers were let go and today only 9,000 workers are employed by the industry, the same number as 10 years ago, before the great surge of the 70s. In terms of employment and income, the industry is set back 10 years.

Some manufacturers, in their despair, have found a way out of the bind: They have travelled to faraway markets, in the Far East or in South America, and have marketed merchandise on consignment (selling locally from stock), to local merchants and low prices. This way they at least can get rid of some of the supply. Incidentally, this explains why despite the crisis there has been some growth last year in the Israeli exports of diamonds, which reached \$1.4 billion. Quite simply, the export figures include great quantities of diamonds which were exported on consignment, and it is doubtful whether much of it sold.

The diamond dealers finance all this activity through the banks. It is astounding to find out that the total debt of the industry--importers, manufacturers, exporters--to Israeli banks reaches \$1.15 billion! Since last year's exports were \$1.4 billion, it means that it takes on the average 10 months from the day the rough diamonds are purchased by the manufacturer to the day he is paid by the customer. In the past the business cycle took only 6 months. The lengthening of the cycle is mainly the result of the marketing difficulties. The current interest rate is 15 percent per year, instead of 6-7 percent a few years ago. The 10 months about 12.5 percent in interest and financing expenses, instead of 3-4 percent 2-3 years ago.

The financing expenses are higher, according to any calculation, than any possible profit for the diamond dealer. At present, according to all experts, nearly all diamond dealers work at a loss. The financing expenses is the affliction of the Israeli economy, which destroys, or threatens to destroy, an entire industry, which provides a living for thousands of people and brings foreign currency to the state's coffers.

Moshe Shnitzer, the president of the diamond exchange, one of the veterans of the industry, says: "The main problem in the industry today is the supply, and the main question is how to reduce it. The supply of rough diamonds for investment or polished diamonds which do not sell, is weighing heavily on the industry, causes huge financing expenses, and makes things difficult for everyone. In order to reduce the supply we have to offer customers abroad tempting terms for buying, such as cheap credit at easy rates. And yet now of all times the Israel Bank demands \$350 million from the banks out of the credit at market interest rate. How can we, under such circumstances, offer customers abroad easy credit and how can we reduce the supply?"

Mr Shnitzer adds that he still remembers how, 35 years ago, he was let go as worker in a diamond polishing plant, because of a seasonal crisis in the industry. "This is an industry of ups and downs. I am optimistic and I hope that in the second half of 1981 there will be a change for the better in the industry. In the meantime we have to hold up. The manufacturers should reduce the volume of the production and buy cheap raw material, which even in today's market can be sold easily. We are trying to convince the Syndicate to supply us with more such diamonds." Another diamond dealer, a leader in the field, told me that if the Syndicate refuses to sell Israel cheap rough diamonds, the manufacturers will have to turn to the open market and buy such diamonds secondhand.

In the middle of all of this the new law came about, requiring the diamond dealers to keep records, in dollars, as of January 1. Shnitzer smiles derisively:

"For the diamond dealers this is an excellent law, in the current situation, and it is no wonder I did not hear any complaint against this law. Many have gladly hired accountants to help them keep records. In the past we paid taxes according to estimates based on volume of work, instead of profit. A shop owner paid taxes according to the number of workers he employs, not the actual business he did. An exporter paid 1.25 percent of the turnover, even if he lost because of a bad or dishonest client. Now that one has to keep records he only pays for the profit he makes. Since nearly everyone is losing money, we do not pay taxes, but rather save for

paying taxes in the future. In 1978 the industry paid two billion pounds in taxes. In 1980 and 81 and thereafter we will pay a lot less in taxes! The damage of keeping records is done to the state, not to the diamond dealer. When the Makabi building was put up by the Iranian Alkalian family (the head of the family has since been executed by the Khomeyni regime, which led to the halting of the work on the outside grounds), some 152 foreign companies, from the U.S., Belgium, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, etc. rented or bought office space. They wanted to set up their headquarters in Israel and take advantage of the opportunity of not having to keep records. After it was decided that the diamond dealers would have to keep records, most of the companies withdrew, and now only 50 or less are using this building!"

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ISRAEL

LARGE INVESTMENT IN LAVI PRODUCTION PLANNED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 81

[Article: "Yosef Ma'ayan at Opening of Aviation and Astronautics Convention: Defense Ministry Plans to Invest \$1 Billion in 8 Years in Developing the Lavi Airplane"]

[Text] The Ministry of Defense plans to invest a billion dollars in the next 8 years in developing the Lavi airplane, which will eventually replace the Skyhawk and the Kfir.

This was reported by the Mr Yosef Ma'ayan, director general of the ministry, at the 23rd annual Aviation and Astronautics Convention which opened yesterday at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel.

Production for Security

Mr Ma'ayan stressed: We produce for security more than any other country, but this is a vital and worthwhile investment, both for our security and for our economy. "We are doing this because we rush to show achievements and because we are still in a state of war. In order to change our contact with the enemy from war to peace, we have to invest in security and we shouldn't, nor is it fair, to look upon the defense budget as merely an expense," he added.

In the 80s, the director general of the ministry pointed out, we will continue to advance technologically and we will be able to provide all the needs of the IDF from our own production and development.

"In the Yom Kippur War we used sophisticated weapons systems which were created by people who sit in this room," he said, pointing at the audience which filled the room.

Mr Ma'ayan went on to talk about the production of the Lavi aircraft. He stressed that this fighter plane was characteristic of the Air Force, which is "considered in the world the best of all air forces." He added that the original and professional thinking of the Air Force is a guarantee that the Lavi will become the outstanding fighter plane which will meet our needs.

El Al and the Rising Cost of Fuel

The rising cost of fuel is a major part of the expenses of the El Al company which has prompted the company's engineers to take quite a few economizing measures, said Mr M. Levitan, head of the engineering division of El Al, who spoke at the convention.

Until 1973 the fuel cost in El Al was only 5 percent of the total expenditure, while now it has reached 25 percent.

He read a long list of ways El Al uses to save fuel. For one thing, the company has developed a computer control system, which monitors the proper functioning of the aircraft engines.

Measures Taken

The computer determines right away if there is a need to service an engine in order to save fuel. It was further determined that every 100 kilos of unnecessary cargo in 747 airplanes increases the annual cost of fuel by \$5,000 per airplane. This is in addition to the loss of income due to less commercial freight. The company, therefore, has taken certain measures to do away with unnecessary cargo: less drinking water on the airplane; aluminum containers replaced by lighter fiberglass containers; dispensing with unused equipment, such as spare parts; and no life rafts for flights which do not call for them.

Airplane without Pilot

Later in the convention the participants saw two models of small aircraft without pilot, one highly sophisticated and costly, with double systems, and the other simpler and cheaper. Both models were displayed as part of a lecture by engineers of the Aircraft Industries, B. Libson, Melamed, and S. Samuel.

The lecturers said that problems with both models have been analysed. The problems were--total loss of the aircraft, damage during landing, total loss of mission, and partial loss of mission.

The Sophisticated One Is Preferable

The analysis of the operation of both models led to the conclusion that although the sophisticated model is 1.6 times more expensive, it is preferable to the cheaper model, and is the right choice.

This conclusion was arrived at on the basis of dependability, since the chance of losing the more costly model is much lower than losing the cheaper one.

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ISRAEL

COTTON EXPORT STATISTICS REPORTED

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Feb 81 p 4

[Article by Y.G.: "Cotton Exports This Year Will Reach 130 Million Dollars"]

[Text] Cotton crops this year will reach 79,000 tons of fiber, as compared to 75,000 tons last year. The national average this year of crops is 136 kilograms of cotton fiber per dunam, as compared to 132 kilograms per dunam last year.

Of the 79,000 tons of fiber, 20,000 tons are earmarked for spinning mills in Israel. The remaining 59,000 tons are earmarked for export. These figures were given in the summaries of the Council for Cotton Production and Marketing.

Financing and Growing and Stock

The bank sources of financing are divided into two sections:

Growing financing--paid in pounds, at an interest rate of 57 percent. This financing is only granted for fiber, to the extent of 75 percent of the cultivated land, according to the percentage of the exports of cotton in the present crops, in keeping with updated calculation of expenses every 3 months.

Stock financing--paid in dollars, at a changing rate of interest of about 10 percent (according to 60 percent interest of the Eurodollar). The volume of the annual financing is about 145 million shekel, but the actual payments, through the Israel Bank, took place during a shorter period (half a year) and amounted to 275 million shekel, which is 20 percent of the value of the crops. The council is weighing whether and how to take advantage of the dollar surplus which the Israel Bank has put at its disposal.

An Export Stimulating Fund

The Israel Bank has offered to collect from industry and agriculture 1 percent of all the loans, in order to create a fund to stimulate exports. The Israel Bank will participate in this fund, with matching funds.

The Council for Cotton Production and Marketing has not yet discussed this offer. There is great doubt whether, according to the criteria of the fund, agriculture in general and the cotton industry in particular will be able to benefit from this fund.

Rise in Payment Per Pound

The crops of cotton seeds this year is 126,000 tons, of which 58,000 tons were sold to farms a cattle feed, and 60,000 tons to seed companies.

The growers received by the end of January 1981 for the cotton crops of 1980 about 11,000 shekels per ton of fiber. In the beginning of February another 1500 shekel per ton of fiber was paid. By the beginning of March 1981 the seed account will be paid in full.

According to the data of the Council for Cotton Production and Marketing, the grower received this year payment for cotton on the basis of 92 cents per pound, compared to 72 cents per pound last year. The rise of the price of cotton in the world market will cause the expansion of area for growing cotton by 10 percent compared to last year.

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ISRAEL

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLANNED ON DEAD SEA

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 81

[Article: "Drive for Developing Tourist Industry on Dead Sea Shore; Forecast: 50 Hotels and Tourist Projects Will Give Israel \$250 Million Per Year"]

[Text] In light of the concerted effort to develop a tourist industry along the Dead Sea, Mr Moshe Shamir, head of the Tamar regional council expects some 50 hotels and tourist projects to be in operation in the near future, giving Israel \$250 million per year in revenue.

In a press tour yesterday in the region, conducted by the Tourist Office of the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, Mr Shamir explained the regional plans which are being completed.

Roads and Water Lines

The plan includes roads, water lines, electricity and sewage for commercial and entertainment centers, designed to attract investors who will build new hotels in the 'En Boqeq and Hanev Zohar area.

The five-year plan, carried out by the Government Tourism Board in cooperation with the regional council, includes inner access roads, irrigation systems for parks and gardens, developing public beach services, paving a seashore promenade, building a solarium for psoriasis patients, and street lights. There are presently four hotels in the area and two more are under construction. These hotels along with the youth hostels and the trailer parks will provide 1200 rooms by the end of 1982.

The Hever River Region

In a later stage the Hever River region will be developed, focusing on desert tourism at Mitzpeh Shalem. There is also a long range plan to develop the Kalyah region, which was a resort for Jerusalem residents during the British Mandate.

Mr Shamir said that by 1986 all allotment of land for development will end, and that unlike in the past, this time the hotels will follow the development. There are 1200 residents today in the area. Some 3700 people are employed in the area, of whom 1300 work at the Dead Sea Potash works and the rest in the tourist industry.

Mr Shamir pointed out that the sea canal will stabilize the shore line, thus solving the problem of the shore which recedes 30 centimeters per year, requiring ongoing repair work at the shore facilities, which are the basis for tourist projects at the Dead Sea.

Prognosis for the Hamey Zohar Region

Eli Koren, director of the Dead Sea Development Company, said that in 2 years seven hotels will open in the area and within 10 years their number will reach in the Hamey Zohar-'En Bozeq area a total of 17 hotels, according to plans.

Mr Annon Altman, head of the tourism administration, said that development projects along the Dead Sea will cost 813 million shekels, with an additional 206 million for enlarging the existing hotels. The plan calls for doubling the number of rooms in the hotels during a short time with the completing of Tzel Harim Hotel with 160 rooms, which will open this year, and Lot Hotel which will be ready for the 1982 season.

President of the Dead Sea Hotel Association, Mr Beni Amdersky, said that the existing four hotels have a total of 660 rooms.

Clear Proof

Mr A. Schechterman, head of the Neot Marpe administration, which is in charge of health spas in Israel, said that the study of the unusual therapeutic qualities of the Dead Sea has not yet been completed. Israel, however, may become a world center for therapeutic tourism.

As proof, the press was presented with a German woman tourist who arrived at the Dead Sea 2 weeks ago. Before she came she suffered from unbearable rheumatic pains, which made it difficult for her to lie down. She spoke excitedly about her improving condition, making it possible for her to walk without support, thanks to the local bath.

"The first time I entered the water I cried from pain, and now you cannot take me out of the pool," she said.

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ISRAEL

BRIEFS

DAYAN TALKS WITH NRP--The possibility of cooperation between the NRP (National Religious Party) and the party headed by Moshe Dayan in the next Knesset was discussed recently in informal talks between Dayan and leaders of the NRP. It is estimated among Dayan people that an independent party headed by Dayan could get in the next elections up to 10 mandates. Together with the NRP such party could form a bloc of 20 Knesset seats which could cooperate on the basis of no concessions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Sources close to Dayan estimate that most of the votes for Dayan will come from the Alignment, which will reduce Peres' mandates and will increase Peres' dependency on outside groups to form a coalition. Dayan has not yet decided if and how he will run in the next elections. RAFI is offering him a ready made base, which Dayan regards as a vehicle to reach his goal. At the same time, Dayan is presenting difficult terms for joining RAFI. It appears that he will demand that the name of the party be changed. There is no assurance that Dayan will agree that the leaders RAFI will like to see at the head of the list remain there. He would like to add to his list candidates from the moshav movement and personalities like Yosef (Yosefle) Tabenkin. Tabenkin, son of Yitzhak Tabenkin, founder of the Kibbutz M'uhad, published recently a shocking document, which warns that a catastrophe may befall Israel if it does not change its economic and defense policy. It also appears that Dayan wants to include in his list such leaders as Minister of Labor and Welfare Dr. Israel Katz. [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 81 p 2] 9565

PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT WINS--The Progressive National Movement (PNM) won all the seats in the Hebrew University Arab student committee in their annual elections, February 3. The PNM slate beat the Democratic Front (Rakah dominated) list by 55 to 45 percent. The voting results reflected the complete split in Palestinian Arab student politics as every voter cast his ballots for the complete slate of either faction. The PNM also gained the six seats on the National Union of Arab Students which were contested at the same time. The PNM victory comes as some consolation to the movement after the Democratic Front retained power on the student committees at all of the other four Israeli Universities over the past few weeks. A jubilant PNM supporter told AL-FAJR after the count was announced, "This makes us all very happy. It will help enormously to spread the ideas and principles of the PNM among the whole student community." The election climaxed a hectic month of campaigning by both sides. Observers noted that nearly all Rakah's leading student activists were at the university for the close of the campaign. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 8-14 Feb 81 p 4]

ARMY CHIEF SAYS BRAIN DRAIN ENDED

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Feb 81 p 1

[Article by Mustafa Abu Libdeh]

[Text]

KUWAIT, Feb. 22: "The Army 'drain' has ended now as the new salaries for the armed forces is equivalent to or even better than the average salaries in other regional countries," Major-General Abdullah Farraj Al Ghanim, the Chief of Staff, said in an interview today.

He added that the new pay scales will encourage Kuwaiti youths to join the armed forces.

He explained that the new total salary for the armed forces will make the remuneration attractive in comparison with the average income in Kuwait including private sector salaries. "The amendment in the cadre issued five days ago raises the allowances by at least 80 per cent and even 120 per cent in some cases," he said. These raises covered all the armed forces specialties that the government regards as requiring qualifications and hard training.

The Chief of Staff pointed out that the latest social allowance approved by the government will be added to the allowances for the armed forces.

On the matter of housing for armed forces personnel, Major-

General Al Ghanim said that more than 4,000 houses were distributed recently for armed forces and there were housing plans to meet all needs by the end of 1982.

Regarding nationalisation, a special committee was formed, after passing of the Nationality Law, to study the rights of the armed forces.

Conscription

"Conscription has been most successful, and evidence of this will be seen on National Day when conscripts will be seen with missile carriers, artillery, tanks and regular troops," Major-General Al Ghanim said with justified pride.

He went on to say that the last batch of conscripts will graduate in a military parade on National Day, and will show their military spirit and discipline although their training period was not more than three weeks.

Commenting on the old joke that Kuwaiti youths want army tanks to be air-conditioned before they drive them, Major-General Al Ghanim pointed out "I have lived with the armed forces and have seen our troops in peace and war and what they have done in battles as proved reliable international sources. They are of a high calibre and not affected by such jokes or similar rumours. Our military leaders are highly qualified and have master's degrees in military studies."

He emphasised that Kuwait's armed forces are well able to pro-

tect their homeland, national institutions and oil wells.

Defence philosophy

Continuing, the Chief of Staff said that the Kuwaiti armed forces were few in number and accordingly depended more on quality than quantity.

"Kuwait's defence philosophy is accordingly related to defence and protection of the country.

The government has been working towards achieving a special quality of defence and boosting training of the military," he said, adding "Ours is one of those armies that send missions for training abroad on a large scale in a bid to modernise the defence capacity and to get acquainted with sophisticated weapons."

Major-General Al Ghanim denied that Kuwait was piling up arms as reported by some international newspapers.

The Chief of Staff said that Kuwait "orders weapons according to defence requirements.

There are proper estimates of needs spread over a period of time commensurate with our requirements."

He emphasised that it was out of the question, both from a theoretical and practical standpoint to pile up weapons in Kuwait.

He went on to explain that Kuwait believed in a carefully-studied diversification of arms sources. Technical experts are provided by the country that sells the weapons, but the full responsibility is shouldered by Kuwait alone.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

EIGHTH YOUTH WEEK TERMED 'HUGE SUCCESS'

Aden AL-THAWRI in Arabic 14 Feb 81 pp 6,7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Hamid Sayf: "The Eighth Youth Week Ends With a Huge Success"]

[Text] Last Saturday the activities of the Eighth Youth Week and the celebrations of the eighth anniversary of the founding of the Yemeni Democratic Youth Federation came to a close, full of boundless enthusiasm, activity, and great vitality. There was a speech-making and artistic festival Saturday evening, 7 February, attended by Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Political Bureau Member and Central Committee Secretary Abu-Bakr Ba-Dhib, Political Bureau Candidate Member and Central Committee Secretary 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, and other party and state officials.

Party Central Committee Member and First Secretary of the Youth Federation Riyadh al-'Akbari delivered a speech at the beginning of the festival in which he reviewed various aspects of the activities of the Eighth Youth Week. This occasion happened to coincide with the eighth anniversary of the founding of the youth federation, which has constantly worked to strengthen its role, in implementation of the directives of our Yemeni Socialist Party.

After that, Second Secretary of the Federation Sayf Sa'il Khalid was awarded the youth federation's Eighth Anniversary Medal in appreciation of his struggling role in leading the federation and his efficiency in the past. 'Abdallah Salim Muhammad was also awarded the federation's anniversary medal.

The Federation Order Awarded to the Party Secretary General

The Eighth Youth Week began on Sunday 1 February with a huge speech-making occasion at the Party School, where the secretary general delivered an important speech praising the federation's past role. He said, "The youth federation could be able to play a major role in effectively contributing to economic and social development and youth upbringing, as long as the state authorities, agencies and organizations show their understanding of the role entrusted to the federation, and back up its status and role in society.

"The time has come for everyone to realize that reinforcing the youth federation's position in our country's political and social system and strengthening its social

role will reinforce the Yemeni Socialist Party's leadership role among the ranks of Yemeni youth."

After the speech, Riyad al-'Akbari, amid a storm of applause and enthusiasm, announced that the youth federation's executive bureau had decided to award the 1 February Order to the secretary general, to express the Yemeni youth people's appreciation for the outstanding, effective role which 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has played and is still playing in our Yemeni revolution, and his effective contributions to creating our revolutionary experience which has become more firmly rooted day by day under the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the leader and the guide for the various revolutionary transformations in our Yemeni society.

Speechmaking and a Festival

At 1530 that day, there was a military and athletic festival in Martyr al-Hubayshi Square in Crater, attended by Political Bureau Member and Central Committee Secretary Abu-Bakr Ba-Dhib and Political Bureau Candidate Member and Central Committee Secretary 'Abdallah al-Khamiri. Honor guards from the various military organizations, including the armed forces, the police and state security, took part in the festival. There was also a review of the Yemeni Vanguards, the Octobrists, and several other groups from boys' and girls' secondary schools.

After that began the seven-part competition among popular and military club teams, which ended with the Shamsan Sports Team's victory.

That evening there was a speech-making festival in the Party School's hall, in which various fraternal and friendly delegations participating in the week's programs and activities took part.

World Youth Praises the Secretary General's Appeal

On the second morning, a youth and student seminar was held in the Yemeni students' central council hall in Crater. A number of Arab youth organizations participated, including the Omani Youth Organization, Palestine Youth, the Yemeni Socialist Youth Federation, and other Arab youth groups.

The seminar began with a discussion of the struggle by the Arab youth and student movement and its organizations against hostile imperialist policy and its military presence in the region. The participants issued several important resolutions which stressed the gravity of the present international situation and denounced reactionary-imperialist plots in the Arab world.

The participants praised 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's important appeal, made at the Islamic summit conference, calling for a summit conference for the Arabian Peninsula, Gulf and African Horn states, to deal with eliminating foreign bases and making the area a region of permanent peace and security.

The seminar participants also praised the Soviet Union's appeal pertaining to the Arab Gulf region and the Indian Ocean. The participants stressed their support and backing for the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people in order to regain their usurped land.

Numerous activities were organized that day, including visits to the museums by the vanguards, the opening of the painting, placard and wall poster institute, the Yemeni youth lottery, and various athletic and artistic activities.

The Young Writers' Activities

On the third day, the third electoral meeting for the Youth Writers' Society was held in the Yemeni students' central council hall. Candidate Political Bureau Member and Central Committee Secretary 'Abdallah al-Khamiri attended, and Secretary of the Youth Federation Central Committee Ideological Department Taha Ba-Mutarraf delivered an important speech stressing the importance of the Youth Writers' electoral meeting and the need to make it an important jumping-off point for achieving greater success in the society's coming programs and activities, and solving the various difficulties which hampered its activity in the past.

The third electoral meeting of the Youth Writers' Society issued several important resolutions and recommendations concerned with strengthening the society and reinforcing the initiative and creativity of its up-and-coming writers. A new seven-member secretariat for the society was also elected.

That day a study circle met to exchange experience among the governorates, followed by several art festivals in Martyr Mudarram Street in al-Ma'alla, the youth federation's headquarters in Shaykh 'Uthman, and elsewhere.

The Fourth Day

There were several youth activities that day, especially military organization activities held in Badr Camp Square, which included several athletic meets, field games and ball games. A bulletin speaking for the youth federation's organizations in the military forces was also published.

The capital also witnessed several art festivals in al-Ma'alla, the youth federation headquarters in Crater, and Salah-al-Din Camp in Little Aden.

The Vanguards Participate in the Week's Activities

On the morning of the fifth day, the activities of the Yemeni Vanguards began with a solidarity festival at the police training school and marches by the vanguards through the streets, especially Martyr Mudarram Street in al-Ma'alla. These parades were interspersed with various vanguard ceremonies designed to instill patriotism and total loyalty to the Yemeni Socialist Party into the vanguards and the children.

That afternoon there were several artistic festivals at the National Stage, the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship House, and the police training school.

The activities of the fifth day also included the graduation of the third 1980 Radfan training class, attended by Central Committee Member and Interior Minister Salih Muslih Qasim and senior officials from the Interior Ministry.

Production Undertakings--the Culmination of the Week

On Friday 6 February, the sixth day of the Eighth Youth Week, there were extensive production undertakings, in response to the youth federation central committee's appeal to all the country's young people to make major production initiatives in various work and production facilities. The port, the carpentry plant and several other facilities saw a huge youth production initiative, our young people's contribution to the observance of Yemeni Revolution Martyrs Day, 11 February.

In another context, on the same day there was an exchange of experience among the delegations from Abin, Shibwah and Aden Governorates (the Interior Ministry District and the People's District). At this meeting, experience was exchanged in the various fields and issues of youth work, especially the organizational and ideological situation in the governorate committees, as well as the situation in the model base organizations. The meeting was interspersed with several splendid, enthusiastic poems by 'Abdallah Ba-Nafi', who is a member of the Youth Writers' Society central committee and a delegate from Shibwah Governorate.

The meeting issued several important resolutions stressing the need to exchange visits and experience among the governorates and to participate positively in finding new ways to develop youth work.

That evening there were several marvelous artistic festivals, participated in by the friendship teams of the delegations invited to take part in the Eighth Youth Week.

The Eighth Youth Week achieved positive, valuable results for the various aspects of youth work, and demonstrated the federation's ability to organize and direct the moral potentials of youth in the direction of continually strengthening the various operational and revolutionary aspects of our country.

The week's diverse activities will no doubt contribute greatly to the successful preparations for the Youth Federation's general extraordinary conference to be held on 24 April.

8559

CSO: 4802

HOSPITAL IN LAWДАР DISTRICT ASSESSED

Aden 14 OCTOBER in Arabic 5 Feb 81 p 2

[Interview with Various Lawdar Hospital Officials by 'Abdullah Al-Shadadi:
"Lawdar Hospital, A Model of Construction and Cleanliness, Suffers from a Scarcity
of Capabilities"]

[Text] The al-Shahid Mahanaf hospital in Lawdar district, as I approached it, seemed to me to be a shining example of the accomplishments of the party and state, to bring the medical profession within everyone's reach, in any part of the remote countryside. I did not have a previous appointment to visit the hospital, but despite that, I was warmly welcomed by the hospital director, who did everything possible to facilitate my journalistic mission. He took me into all departments to learn the hospital operations. From my observations, it was clear that outstanding care was expended on behalf of cleanliness within the departments, and concern was manifested for public health aspects, by virtue of the fact that prevention is better than treatment.

I talked to Brother Nasir Saleh, the hospital's director. He told me about the hospital's development in recent times.

[Answer] The hospital has four departments; two are for men, of which one is internal medicine and the other, surgery. There is a department for women and one for children. The hospital has 40 beds for cases that require extended stays. We have 40 nurses and medical assistants. We recently added another department, especially for maternity and pediatrics. There, children are inoculated against contagious diseases, and pregnancies are treated. Mothers are given birth-control pills, and advice and instruction regarding healthy ways to raise and care for children, as well as sound methods to follow during pregnancy. A fully-equipped operating room was recently established, and the laboratory expanded. The hospital has an x-ray department and a pharmacy. If we look at the departments' ability to offer medical services, we find that they are very effective, despite the relative capabilities. For example, the maternity and pediatrics department has become increasingly in demand, as a result of the benefit gained by mothers and their rising health consciousness. Number of patients rose from 5 to 30 mothers and children per day, by the end of 1980, despite its newness, since it only opened on 1 June 1980. In this department, we have a qualified, capable group who, in addition to their work in the department, travel around the villages

surrounding the city of Lawdar to treat mothers and children, and inoculate them against contagious diseases.

Operating Room Not Working

[Question] I see that the operating room is closed. Why don't you use the operating room?

[Answer] That is correct. It was shut down recently, as a result of not having a surgeon, since the previous one was transferred. We were promised a replacement, especially since operations are necessary in many cases, which require rapid surgery, and since the area is so vast and remote from central hospitals. However, despite our followup with the Bureau of Health Services in the province, there has been no action.

[Question] Does this mean that you have no specialists?

[Answer] As regards doctors, we have two generalists but no specialists in surgery, pediatrics or internal medicine. We are in dire need of specialists, since many of the cases require doctors such as these, and this is the only hospital in the district.

X-Ray Room Not Working

[Question] What about x-ray equipment--does it work?

[Answer] The x-ray department is complete, in terms of equipment and a technician. However, it is not used mornings, because the electricity in the area only operates in the afternoon. We use the x-ray room in the afternoon at the present time, but this will be solved, because the hospital will obtain its own electrical generating system soon, which will solve the electricity crisis.

Outpatient Clinic, and the Shortage of Nurses

[Question] What about the activities of the outpatient clinic?

[Answer] As a result of efforts made by the doctors and two qualified nurses, and the treatment they provide, it is appreciated by the citizens, since the clinic receives from 50 to 250 cases daily. In some cases, they are admitted, if the doctor deems it necessary. We have two qualified nurses, a 3-year diploma and a 1-year. But we suffer from a shortage of female nurses, since we have only one. Seven female nurses were assigned to us, but the female nurses we had were included in the general transfers. However, so far, only one replacement nurse has arrived.

[Question] Do you have a shortage of medical supplies?

[Answer] This is our most important problem, since it causes aggravations for us with the citizens, and limits the doctors' effectiveness, who prescribe medication which in most cases is not available.

[Question] Such as?

[Answer] Vital serums and antidotes, since some of them are in insufficient quantities, and do not fulfill the hospital's needs.

[Question] The solution?

[Answer] The solution is not in our hands. All that we are able to do is to submit our requests to the provincial health services, and follow them up. However, despite our repeated followups and our efforts in this regard, there is no action. Even our paper supplies are not available, even though this is a district hospital, and has 15 health units subordinate to it, which we should be supplying with medicines. The health units, spread out through the Lawdar and al-Wadhi' districts, are also suffering from the shortage of medicines, and the lack of cleaning workers. There is also a lack of construction authority; buildings need rebuilding, like Ama Jal, al-Hidhn, Am Hayn, and Am Surrah. These units have not been refurbished since their establishment in 1968.

[Question] The secretary of the party's rank and file organization in the hospital talked about the organization's role in backing up the hospital's situation and offering better services.

[Answer] The party's rank and file organization plays a decisive role in planning and supervising implementation of the plans, in coordination with the management and party apparatus in the hospital. It also follows up with the health services bureau, in order to satisfy any shortage that the hospital suffers. However, despite our efforts, several issues are pending, without solution. However, we are facilitating overcoming some of them, as much as we are able, especially our efforts with the workers, in terms of meetings, to exhort them to care more for the sick, and to identify wholeheartedly with health and treatment work, by virtue of the fact that it is humanitarian labor which, in turn, leads to strengthening the conditions of health labor inside the hospital, despite the difficulties which it suffers. We also make trips to the health units to find out their concerns, and to submit any of their issues to the hospital director who, in turn, submits them and any followups to the health services bureau in the province.

We also met with Sister Fayazah 'Ali Nasir, supervisor of the maternity and pediatrics department in the district.

[Question] Do you have any difficulties impeding your work?

[Answer] Regarding the department, there are no problems, except our need for more midwives, since the demand for them, on the mothers' part, is increasing. Other than that, there is my lower degree. At a time in which my contemporaries in profession, qualifications and length of service, are obtaining degrees, such as first or second, I am still at five, despite my long service and 3-year diploma. I have 9 years of service, in addition to supervising the maternity and pediatrics department for the district.

7005

CSO: 4802

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

SITUATION AT LAWDAR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY STATION REVIEWED

Aden 14 OCTOBER in Arabic 29 Jan 81 p 2

[Interview with Various Officials of Lawdar Rental Station, by 'Abdullah al-Shadadi: "Agricultural Machinery Rental Station in Lawdar District; Production Rose in 1980 to Double the Production of Past Years"]

[Text] The agricultural machine rental station in Lawdar district, Abyan province, fulfills an effective and important role in the agricultural field, in terms of services it offers the farmers in plowing, fertilizing and irrigating the land, through supplying them with earth-moving machines, tractors, and pumps, as well as technical services offered to them for repair of equipment they own. It also supplies them with spare parts, which it buys or manufactures internally.

In order to learn more of the positive things that the station has achieved, through developing agricultural operations, solving farmers' problems, and the superior methods it has achieved, we met with the director of the station, the director of production, the masses; organizations, and some of the outstanding workers.

[Question] We asked about the station's beginnings, its previous position, and what progress it has made recently. Brother Muhammad 'Ali Qati', the director of the station, answered.

[Answer] The station was established in 1971, and was subordinate to the Yemeni-Soviet projects until 1974, when it was given financial and administrative independence, on the basis that it cover its own expenses. In that period, it was not on the level it now is. Its operations only covered maintenance of equipment belonging to the workshop. It had no production department then; this was created in 1978. Also at that time, it expanded its services, and began to offer services to the private sector, in maintenance of pumps and earth-moving machines for individual farmers. It also established several branches in the Mukayaas area to dig and deepen wells, maintain pumps and to rent earthmovers to farmers in that area. The station has a mobile department in al-Mahfid to do maintenance on tractors and to offer services in any area, no matter how far away. This proves that the station is more valuable now than it used to be.

Station Development

[Question] Does this mean that the station's capabilities have increased over what they previously were?

[Answer] That is correct. We have more various kinds of earthmovers and tractors than what there were in the past. We had 7 tractors and 14 earthmovers then. Now we have 19 tractors of various kinds, and 32 earthmovers. We also recently bought five tractors, to be allocated to the al-Rayyah al-Hamra' area, near the province of Shabwah. There is a decision to purchase 10 earthmovers, to be allocated to the al-Wadhi' area.

Station's Workforce

We have 134 workers, consisting of earthmover and tractor drivers, and 42 workers qualified through internal courses in the station. They were taught by Soviet experts, who train the workers and offer advice and guidance, since the majority of equipment is Soviet.

[Question] What about spare parts? How available are they to you?

[Answer] We have a warehouse to store spare parts for all the equipment. There is no shortage of difficulty in this area. If a simple shortage occurs, it is solved through the shipping company. We also manufacture some spare parts, like the "spar" turner for earthmovers and tractors, and the external "gears."

[Question] What about the station's energy?

[Answer] We have no problem in this regard, since the station has two electrical generators to provide us with electricity. In the future, we will expand the station and construct new facilities.

[Question] To what extent do you do your own planning, since your financial and administrative independence? Does the station have growth in the 1981 plan?

[Answer] A great deal of concern was given to implementation of the annual and separate plans by the board of directors. We have four departments: production department, which is the most important, energy department, the department of pump maintenance, and the machine maintenance department. For the production department, and especially the earthmovers and tractors, the plan establishes a norm of 208 workers per month. This should increase to 260 hours, as our services in this department extend outside of the district. The lathe section that manufactures the hydraulic cylinders, which are used to drain flood waters, and that manufactures the cylinders for the Yemeni-Soviet project in Ahwar, in accordance with a contract ratified with the station, can produce 700 cylinders a year. The lathe section produces an average of 60 cylinders per month. It also supplies the station with simple spare parts, as needed. It also offers services to the farmers, to supply their spare part needs.

The pump maintenance department maintains the farmers' pumps. They do maintenance on 50 pumps a year, and maintain the "fuelpumps" for the tractor and earthmovers belonging to the station, as well as the hydraulic system for the earthmovers.

The energy department has a schedule to maintain the station's electricity generators, as well as overhauling dynamos, batteries, and earthmover and tractor lights, and to

maintain the lathes' electric motors. There are three workers in this shop, and they do their work thoroughly.

In 1981, the station will aggressively undertake more development, both in offering services and in internal manufacture of spare parts. The plan includes the purchase of new machines, obtaining more workers and technicians, and concern for qualifying the workers. The station has sent three trainees to the Soviet Union, and we will send five persons to the Soviet Union to do a study course to learn workshops and machine maintenance. A unified statistical system will also be applied in the station. A special place for tractor maintenance will also be built at a cost of 6000 dinars. A department will be established for internal manufacture of spare parts for machines that will come into operation in 1981. We will also obtain a machine to manufacture special parts for earthmovers. We will achieve self-sufficiency and a surplus, which we will market through the domestic commercial firm. The project falls under developing the station's efficiency.

[Question] Tell us about production methods during 1980. What increase in production will the station achieve in 1981? Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Abdullah, the director of production, replied.

[Answer] The station's production, before its financial and administrative independence, was not more than 4000 dinars monthly. However, income rose in 1975 to 7000 dinars a month, despite the fact that machines at that time only numbered 7 tractors and 14 earthmovers. In 1980, especially after the station expanded and increased its inventory of machines, it achieved production double that achieved in the past, since the total production reached 192,528,856 dinars for the year. We expect that production in 1981, according to plans, will rise to 328,000 dinars. After saying expenses for 1980, the station made a profit of 1467 dinars. We expect to increase production over the planned amount of 208 work-hours. It could go as high as 300 work-hours per month, since there are more requests on the part of farmers, especially those to whom the state has recently given land. They are among those returning to the country.

[Question] We asked about the role of the party's rank and file organization to solidify the station's position and increase its efficiency.

Brother al-Khadr 'Abdrubihi, first secretary of the rank and file organization, replied.

[Answer] The rank and file organization gives direction to the work in the station and supervises implementation of its plans. It also plays an active role, in coordination with the rest of the party's apparatus, to exhort the workers to increase production and create an excellent attitude toward labor. It also participates in solving any issues which hinder the course of the station's work.

The secretary of the trade union committee also spoke with us about the committee's role in raising the workers' consciousness to protect public property, and to eliminate illiteracy. A number of illiterates have been educated; moreover, there is a plan for 1981 to educate 21 illiterates, in addition to cultural activities through domestic radio and the magazine AL-HA'TIYAH. Meetings with the workers

will also be expanded, to discuss any issues pertaining to the work and workers, and to share in their solution, in coordination with the management and the committee of workers' affairs in the station.

Production Heroes Speak

[Question] We also met with production heroes in the station, and Brother 'Abdullah Hassan told us about the work that he does in the station.

[Answer] I am a tractor engineer, responsible for a division of outside maintenance for mobile sections. I have been doing my job since 1954, and at this station since 1972. I am very skilled at my trade, since I have been doing it a long time. I also do maintenance on the earthmovers and pumps.

[Question] Why were you chosen as a hero of production?

[Answer] This stems from what I accomplished in my job, since the plan for me was to maintain two tractors a month. It then went up to four tractors, in remote, rugged areas, like Jisan. Also, there was my discipline on the job, the increased efficiency of the division and the rise in its production. That caused me to earn this honor 3 years running.

[Question] Brother 'Abdullah 'Umar al-Raydi is an earthmover driver. He told us about his selection as a production hero.

[Answer] That was because of the extra hours of work I did. The number of work-hours that I accomplished per month rose from 208 to 250, in addition to my maintaining the earthmover, since it has not needed any change of spare parts since its delivery in 1976. I was rewarded for that by being given a new machine. I was honored as a production hero in 1979 and 1980.

7005

CSO: 4802

PROBABILITY OF OIL GLUT CONSIDERED

London 8 DAYS in English 28 Feb 81 pp34-36

[Article by Robert Pouliot]

[Text]

SEPTEMBER 1980 was a dark period for Opec as ministers gathered in Vienna for what was certain to be a rough ministerial conference.

A world oil glut was already striking hard at the organisation's most vulnerable members. Nigeria, with its extra-light crude which competes directly with North Sea oil, Kuwait, fighting hard against Mexico to keep its traditional share of the heavy crude market, and Ecuador, Opec's junior member, prey to Texaco's marketing policies. In the non-Socialist world, oil inventories of 3.6bn barrels — some 600m barrels above normal levels, or six times as great as those existing before the Iranian revolution, hung over the market while the industrial world was heading deeper and deeper into recession.

Whereas a few producers usually managed to escape the seasonal September production dip experienced since 1977, all were now feeling the effects of an 8.25 per cent drop in demand since the previous month, August. Nigeria was forced to reduce its output dramatically, by 400,000 bbl or 20 per cent, in a three week period and was on the verge of shaving its official prices. Kuwait had recorded an 11.25 per cent drop in demand and, say market insiders now, was ready to offer under-the-table discounts of \$5-\$6. As for Ecuador, its production plunged by a record 27 per cent.

Algeria also had serious problems over its new LNG pricing policy. It had no leverage on its customers and the Americans were sitting back, waiting for the crunch to bite. Washington was well aware that even

Canada, the export market leader, had retreated following a 30 per cent-plus drop in US demand for its gas since spring. At the other end of the market, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani was feeling another kind of pinch: mounting pressure to cut Saudi Arabia's production, providing a unique opportunity to bargain for a long-term Opec production strategy and for an overall realignment of oil prices.

Then came the shock of the Gulf war and a sudden shortage in supplies for the non-socialist world of 7 to 8 per cent. Spot prices resumed their ascendancy, access premiums were swiftly restored and official prices went up again after the Bali conference. The price freeze agreed in Vienna was over and Opec had averted a major market crisis by gaining critical time while the industrial North was trying to heal its biggest wound: stagflation.

The question now is, has the threat really passed and is there a danger that the hangover may be even more painful in the wake of the 1979-81 threefold price increase (from a weighted average of \$13 to \$36 a barrel)?

Since Bali, the proposed Opec summit, which Sheikh Yamani was hoping would be held this spring, now seems unlikely to take place before the end of the year at the earliest, especially since Iraq insists on having the summit in Baghdad. The war between Iran and Iraq, which a number of Opec ministers hoped would end early in 1981, grinds on. And although data reaching the market about oil availability in the Gulf is "fragmentary and doubtful", as an executive from a big oil national put it

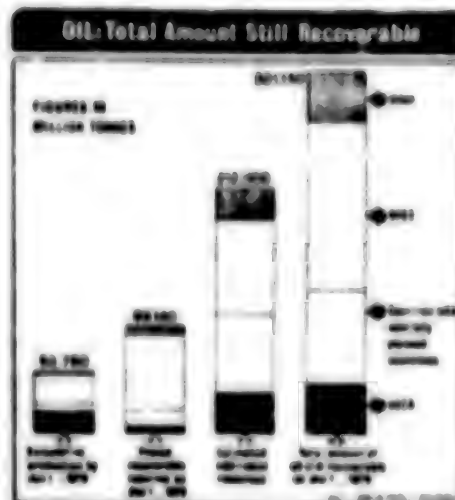
recently, the supply situation is 'manageable.' With some 300 to 400m barrels of additional inventories still left, the West can live with the Shatt al Arab war until the end of 1981, he added.

Cargoes of crude and refined products are now going unsold in Rotterdam and Singapore, spot prices are continuing their downward slide, and despite terms such as 'precarious, uncertain and fragile' used to describe the state of the market, International Energy Agency (IEA) officials say that supply and demand for oil is now 'in balance'. Market watchers in London are in fact now signalling a slight surplus, despite an exceptionally cold winter in the US. Even OECD countries, part of the IEA consumers' block, admit that the conclusions reached last December have proved to be over-pessimistic.

'What happened,' a source told *8 Days*, 'is that we had to forecast nil exports from Iran and Iraq on 9 December when Baghdad suddenly suspended its supplies.' No emergency sharing measures are expected by the IEA to be needed before the end of the northern winter. 'We should end up with an overall average inventory position of 90 days' said an IEA official. Indeed, current IEA inventories are 410m tonnes (nearly 3in barrels), compared to 420m tonnes during the first quarter of 1980 and 365m (2.6in barrels) in the same period of 1979, when big production cuts in Iran plagued in Khomeini's rule.

Among countries that are now below the compulsory threshold are Portugal, Turkey, Spain (now at 82 days) and the United States, which may have 80 to 82 days of stocks left on 1 April. Moreover, the 21 members of the agency have met their target ceiling of 238m tonnes (19m b/d) in their oil imports for the first three months of 1981. 'In fact we could even be under by three to four million tonnes (250,000 to 320,000 b/d) said the official. This would be a remarkable achievement.

Preliminary figures show that IEA members cut back oil imports by 7.5 per cent last year to 35.7m b/d, significantly higher than the 5 per cent reduction projected last December. Early estimates for 1981 predict a further drop to 35.3m b/d, but the figure may even be lower. Depending on the attitude of car owners in North America, the IEA projects another cut of up to 3-4 per cent for OECD countries throughout the year, beyond the 6 per cent recorded last year.



(Not all OECD countries are members of the IEA, although the most meaningful performance will come from the latter group, which includes the US, Japan and the big consumers of Europe.)

The current picture is startling: instead of drawing 4.2m b/d from their inventories, IEA members are currently de-stocking at a little over 3m b/d some 25 to 30 per cent above the usual rate.

However, making projections is extremely hazardous considering the unpredictable political factors which may affect three Opec producers in 1981: Iraq, Iran and Libya. With the underlying threat of scarcity putting a premium on oil diplomacy, geopolitics have become an essential component in plotting oil supply and demand. As US Secretary of State Alexander Haig wrote last year in a study entitled *Oil Diplomacy*, 'The economies of energy supply are more and more subject to the forces of the political market place, and the barrier between economic policy and foreign policy is collapsing'.

Two major signals are expected before April which will confirm the size of the new world market glut. First, in a few weeks, Kuwait and Qatar will be renegotiating their yearly contracts from 1 April and should know whether or not their pre-paid access premiums — ranging between \$5.50-\$6.50 a barrel — will hold for supplementary crude deliveries.

The biggest test will be in Kuwait. (The Qatari strategy depends entirely on the Kuwaiti marketing strength.) The access premium is aimed at locking in buyers and averting last-minute fluctuations in

1981 oil supply and demand projections

in million barrels a day per quarter

	quarter 1	quarter 2	quarter 3	quarter 4
total demand				
non-Comecon countries	52.2	48.7	48.1	49.6
non-Opec supply				
US ¹	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.9
North Sea	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4
Mexico	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Comecon exports	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8
Other	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.6
total non-Opec	24.4	24.0	24.2	24.4
residual demand for Opec crude supply	27.8	22.7	21.9	25.2
available supply from Opec				
Saudi Arabia ²	10.3	9.8	9.5	9.5
Iraq	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2
Iran	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5
Kuwait ¹	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
UAE	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Qatar	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Libya	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Algeria	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Nigeria	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Venezuela	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2
Indonesia	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Gabon and Ecuador	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
total Opec	25.4	25.0	24.9	25.1
surplus/(deficit) of Opec oil or stock	(2.4)	2.3	3.0	0.1

Notes: All figures refer to production and net exports, except for supplies coming from Comecon countries and made available to non-East European countries. Overall demand for the non-Comecon world is slightly above current projections.

¹ Includes up and delivery gains.

² Figures for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia include natural gas stream output.

monthly liftings. Overall, this would mean a cost of \$41-\$43 for supplies of heavy (Kuwait 31 API degrees) to extra-light (up to 40 API degrees for Qatari crude). For basic deliveries sold at official government prices, rates are \$35.50 for Kuwaiti crude and up to \$37.42 for Qatar's. Though the decision by Saudi Arabia to increase its marker crude price to \$36 per barrel — because of incremental emergency lifting due to the Gulf war — may help, the conditions laid out by Kuwait and Qatar still appear very tough in the light of North African and Iranian prices, which range between \$38.50 and \$41.50, including premiums.

The second pointer is due by mid-April, when the IEA headquarters in Paris will be in a position to analyse what really

happened in 1980 and to know exactly the energy savings made by its industrial members. The figures come from a monitoring system based on both governmental and corporate reportings. In addition, figures for the first quarter of 1981 will give further indications of consuming trends for the rest of 1980, while the state of inventories should enable the first reliable projections to be made about re-stocking operations. And in June, the agency will possibly hold its ministerial board meeting in the run-up to the seven-nation industrial summit due to be held in Ottawa in July.

The IEA's intelligence will also come at the right time for the Opec meeting scheduled for 24 May in Geneva. The state of the market, rather than pricing will be the major item on the agenda, along with the

matter of restoring to Iran and Iraq their traditional market shares.

However, such a goal may prove to be extremely difficult to achieve under the most optimistic assumptions in a period when OPEC as a group reached its lowest level of exporting since 1975 and had its lowest share of world production since the early 1960s (roughly 40 per cent in November/December, as against 47-50 per cent during the comparable 1977-79 period).

New factors have come into play since the last major glut, in 1975, which may force the 13 oil exporting nations to implement sooner than expected a comprehensive scheme for production programming, a strategic tool unused so far.

The International Energy Agency was still in its infancy in 1975, but it is now on the verge of considerably strengthening its defensive posture through an enhanced control of inventory management among its 21 member-countries. Under European pressure and criticism, it is also speeding up its offensive capabilities through improved

technology cooperation regarding alternative energy sources.

North Sea and Mexican producers are eager to increase their output by nearly 1 m b/d in 1981, and if they do it will make a dent in both light and heavy ends of the market. In addition, smaller producers such as Egypt, Argentina and Oman are striving to raise their output because they need the cash. One question mark is the intentions of the Soviet Union, which has decided to reduce its exports commitments to the West

in a quest for political quid pro quos with major developing nations such as India. IEA members now get roughly 1 m b/d of Soviet crude and the cutback may reach 300,000 to 400,000 b/d later this year, hitting Italy the hardest.

In 1976 there was still considerable flexibility to move production up and down, and quarterly swings in Opec production of up to 8 m b/d, or 30 per cent, were seen. This year, however, even a takeoff in US gross national product would not necessarily trigger a simultaneous leap in energy consumption. Indeed, oil price decontrol in the US could reinforce the trend for energy saving, while Japanese and European governments will be very cautious in avoiding the risk of a new wave of inflation by reflation their economies.

The biggest challenge for Opec will be how to share an across-the-board production cutback to make room for Iraq and Iran. In order to ease the impact of the war, Opec countries jacked up their shipments by about 1.5 m b/d last autumn. But even if such emergency liftings were to be withdrawn, it would not be enough to wipe out the emerging surplus this summer. With IEA members restricting at the rate of 1 m b/d and Iran and Iraq together producing no more than their current 1.6 m b/d (a rather conservative assumption), the Saudis would still have to scale down their output to at least 9.5 m b/d from the current 10.3 m b/d. If Iraq, on the other hand, restores its pumping through Syria, as it is now reported to be planning, the Saudis could cut their production by a half a million barrels drop in Aramco's allowables.

The prospects are likely to remain so uncertain as to keep Saudi Arabia prisoner of its above-normal level of shipments of crude. And that could mean an equilibrium between supply and demand by late 1981, which would be the first time for years that industrial countries would not need to draw down deeply into their stocks. This may be followed by a tremendous glut by the spring of 1982 — not enough, perhaps, to force down official price prices, since multinational oil companies have too much to lose in seeing the value of billions of barrels of oil dwindle in their tanks, but enough to shave off all remaining premiums and to smooth official government stand-in credit term payments and under-the-table discounts.

Beside Saudi Arabia, which has since last

November made it clear that it would not repeat its bitter experience of 1975 and 1978 by bearing the greatest share of a glut burden, no other producer can afford a sizeable output decrease to ease the market pressure. Nigeria, for one, has now decided for purely political reasons to attack the Libyan market at any cost.

With the increasing tension between Algiers and Tripoli over the fate of the Polisario, and secret dealings between Algeria and Morocco over the Western Sahara, Libya needs all the money it can earn. Algeria, Venezuela and Indonesia cannot reduce their output further after last year's cutbacks, while the United Arab Emirates are virtually locked into the market thanks to their low competitive pricing.

Therefore, if Iraq eventually tries to implement its recently stated production target of 5m b/d after the war that could mean trouble for Opec.

CSO: 4820

BRIEFS

LARGE GAS FIELD--Doha--A major gas field to the north west of Qatar could preserve Qatar's current oil revenues which amount to 18 billion Qatari riyals, for the next five centuries, a study published here said. The General Petroleum Authority said gas reserves are estimated at 300 trillion cubic feet. This is equivalent to 51.08 billion barrels of oil, ten times Qatar's oil reserves which are expected to last up to 55 years according to current production rates, the Qatari newspaper GULF TIMES said. Qatar produces around half a million barrels of oil said another report presented by an American company during a petroleum symposium held in Doha last month. The report said that Qatar could increase its income by an average of \$500 million annually from the gas exports only if it exploited a part of its gas reserves. Qatar sold to Japan an amount of gas last November at a price of \$5.5 per one million British Thermal Units (BTU). The paper said that Qatar is not in a hurry to exploit its huge hydrocarbon reserves, yet plans have been set to construct another gas plant in Ras Lafan near to Al-Khof field.--KUNA [Text] [Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 2]

CSO: 4820

CONFLICT SEEN BETWEEN SAUDI REGIME, SOCIETY

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Feb 81 p 15

[Article by Taysir Khalid, Member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine: "The Situation in Saudi Arabia and the Horizons for Development—Agencies, Political Decision-Making, and the Special Role"]

[Text] Taysir Khalid has written a serious, lengthy study of the composition and structure of Saudi Arabia's political system and society, and the horizons for developing the relations among its class and political forces. Here are some excerpts from the study selected by AL-SAFIR, inasmuch as it was unable to publish the entire study due to lack of space.

Saudi Arabia is passing through a transition stage in which advanced capitalistic relations coexist with feudal relations. The capitalistic aspects find their expression in the oil and light consumer industries, which began to develop rapidly in the seventies, as well as in extensive commercial activity. In Saudi Arabia, petroleum revenues are governed by the laws of the capitalist market, laws which are not based on and do not arise from national production's role in directing supply and demand, but which rely on a policy of investing these revenues in non-production sectors such as defense, management, services and so forth. The regime is unable to invest all the revenues from this resource in such non-production sectors, and it shows no inclination towards national development of the national industrial sector; therefore, it resorts to investing 60 percent of its total revenues in foreign banks, stocks and bonds, and projects in capitalist countries, especially the United States. In return, it opens its markets to exports from capitalist countries, especially America, which sends one-quarter of all its exports to the Arab world to Saudi Arabia alone. The policy of using Saudi Arabia's resource to meet the needs of domestic repression; the counterproductive flood of expenses; the curbing of the development of national industry; the widespread disregard for rural and agricultural development; the transformation of the country's economic role into one which does not coincide with the needs and requirements of developing the national market; the total subservience to the international capitalist market and its consumer goods; the investment of the huge revenue surplus in foreign banks; the sustaining of exorbitant losses because of price fluctuations—all of this indicates the prevalence of the capitalist relations mode, as well as the regime's policy and nature. The regime resorts to all of this in order to slow down social interactions in Saudi society and to curb the opposition and confine it to a narrow political and social framework.

In addition to this capitalist pattern for socio-economic relations, there is also the feudal pattern, which finds its expression in the absolute theocracy of the Saudi royal family. The main evidence of the 5,000-member Saudi royal family's control of government and government affairs is the absolute control and use of state agencies and national resources to strengthen this control, and the use of religion to legitimize this rule. Rule is individual, absolute and direct. There is no parliament in Saudi Arabia, nor any legal political parties, unions, or professional organizations. The government oversees a huge intelligence agency, and the Saudi royal family is spread throughout the country. It relies on marriage relationships with the tribes as a means of consolidating control and authority. The Saudi royal family distributes positions of power and influence among its members, and this distribution is a way of balancing the political trends and loyalties within the Saudi family and controlling their struggle for influence with the family council. Naturally, under such circumstances, all democratic manifestations are defaced and obliterated, and a backward, feudalistic system of government prevails, coexisting with advanced capitalistic relations while waiting for the inevitable collision.

It can be said, in short, that despite this feudal pattern for the Saudi royal family's regime and its policy as explained above, some encroachment has begun to appear between the Saudi societal forces and the existing regime. The Saudi working class is slowly developing, and a technocratic class encroaching on and complaining about the regime's reaction and backwardness is rapidly developing. Advanced capitalist relations are eating away bit by bit at the regime's feudal social values, influencing Saudi demography, and affecting the surrounding region and its development. This situation has developed to the stage of actual collision with the regime's social structure as outlined above.

Principal Forces In Saudi Power

The "princely class" is the principal force in Saudi power, and in practice all governmental authority and responsibility comes together in its hands. Within the princely class, influence is distributed among several blocs, the most important ones being as follows:

1. The bloc led by Prince Fahd, which includes Defense Minister Prince Sultan, Interior Minister Prince Nayif, Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmad, and Deputy Defense Minister Prince Turki. In addition to controlling Riyadh Province, it controls several important positions in the executive state agencies, such as the cabinet and the civil service administration. This bloc's influence also depends on support from America, the comprador bourgeoisie, and the real estate magnates participating in it, in addition to the Sudayri tribes, who are the princes of the south. Through its control of the principal state agencies, this bloc in effect directs Saudi policy, and is more connected with American policy than any other bloc.

2. The bloc led by Prince 'Abdallah, which basically controls the National Guard, which has grown remarkably in number and readiness since the abortive coup organized by some Saudi army officers in 1969. This bloc relies on Prince Talal's group, which in the 1960's played a prominent role in demanding a constitutional

monarchy for Saudi Arabia, the evacuation of American bases from Saudi Arabia, and national supervision over the oil resources. The role of the Prince Talal group declined greatly in the 1970's, and the Prince 'Abdallah bloc has basically remained dependent on an extensive network of relations with tribes in various parts of Saudi Arabia, as provided by the composition of the National Guard. This bloc is the second force, although there is a vast difference between its influence and that of the Prince Fahd bloc, for it is much less linked with American policy and more receptive to the surrounding Arab world.

3. The Faysal family bloc, consisting of the sons of King Faysal, which controls general intelligence, 'Asir Province, and several civilian organizations such as Youth Welfare and the King Faysal Society.

The conflicts among these blocs were more violent during King Faysal's time than they are now. After King Faysal's death, the Fahd family bloc resolved the conflicts, in its own interest to a great extent. Nevertheless, the differences which began to appear a while ago between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States, and the conviction of the bloc most connected with American policy that this policy was not sufficiently resolute vis-a-vis the so-called Shi'ite danger, helped maintain a certain degree of equilibrium among these blocs. Several differences over major political issues, such as Camp David and oil policy, cropped up among these main power blocs, and the first bloc remains the most reactionary one. This bloc doesn't want these differences to reach the point of explosion, and wants to control and resolve them by submitting them to the Saudi family council. The same goes for resolving the differences over domestic policy issues. The death of King Khalid will certainly deepen the differences and conflicts among these blocs, especially considering the Fahd family's aspirations to completely control the situation.

These blocs' control of power in Saudi Arabia; the lack of legislative organizations such as a parliament or even a consultative council; the lack of any executive power responsible to such organizations or to public opinion; the lack of judicial organizations; and the prohibition on forming political parties and organizations and even unions and professional federations--all of this is bringing broad Saudi circles into confrontation with an absolute theocracy. This provides the objective climate for an opposition, which has begun to appear, demanding domestic reforms and the establishment of some constitutional organizations. This opposition even includes a group of enlightened Saudi princes, some bourgeois sectors such as the chambers of commerce, the growing technocratic class, and several weak, secret opposition parties, most importantly the Saudi Communist Party.

The Class Composition of Saudi Society

1. The Saudi royal family, with its main blocs, constitutes the prevailing political class in Saudi society, holding in its hands the reins of true political power. It controls the national resource and the gross national revenue of Saudi Arabia. It makes the decisions on expenditures, which basically go towards the suppression of popular classes and domestic political and religious opposition, and towards wide-scale bribery of the workers who serve the princes and manage their affairs and the Saudi technocrats. It makes the decisions about investing a large part of

the national income, most of which goes to deposits in foreign banks and stocks and bonds in foreign companies, especially in America. It also bribes and buys the ruling classes of a considerable number of Arab countries, and disburses money to counterrevolutions in Arab and developing countries. Above all, it contributes to the financing of right-wing election campaigns, even in Western Europe, in order to oppose the reformist policy of international socialist parties in Europe--France, Italy, Spain and Portugal. The Saudi royal family controls Saudi national income in a truly feudal manner, and in addition is systematically plundering the nation's resource and its revenues, subject to no legislative control. It occupies the summit of the Saudi social pyramid, monopolizes political power, and is the representative and real leader of the comprador-financial-real estate-service bourgeoisie in the stage of transition between feudalism and capitalism. This does not mean that capitalist relations are not well-embedded in Saudi society; the reverse is true. But the ruling regime is hindering Saudi Arabia's political and social development during this historically backward stage, by depriving the country of any constitutional legislative, executive or judicial organizations or any political or civil rights legislation which would put Saudi Arabia, with its vast potentials and resources, on the road to actual capitalist development. The absolute theocracy of the Saudi princely class is the ultimate form of feudal regime coexisting with the capitalist relations of a consumer society. Under such circumstances, and at this developmental stage, daily activity produces its own contradictions: a little bit of vitality and a lot of slowness.

2. In Saudi Arabia, a technocratic bourgeoisie is rapidly developing from educated technical and administrative groups. This growth is most remarkable in the petroleum, educational, health and management sectors. In theory, Saudi Arabia is spending about 15 billion pounds sterling on educational projects as part of the 1975-80 five-year plan. There are six universities in Saudi Arabia, the most important being the University of Petroleum and Minerals. Thousands of Saudi students are studying in capitalist countries, more than 15,000 of them at universities in the United States. They all return to Saudi Arabia after finishing their studies to become part of a constantly expanding technocratic class. The group's continual increase is aided by the fact that Saudi Arabia has not experienced a brain drain, because of the high incomes earned by skilled persons. The technocratic bourgeoisie, by virtue of its education and openness to world culture and political trends on the one hand, and their employment in a society controlled by a backward theocracy on the other hand, finds itself, in spite of its services to the regime and its affiliations with the regime's organizations, in opposition to the regime's general policy, which prevents this group from participating in the formation of its political future. The vast expenditures on defense, repression, and the commercial capitalist sector (communications), and the significant shortage of expenditures on industry in general and the petroleum and mineral resource sector in particular (only \$370 million in 1975) places this broad group in a quandary between its harmony with and assimilation into the regime's general policy and its aspirations for an advanced economic policy which would at least allow it to participate in the regime's general policy. In addition, there are all the manifestations of corruption, bribery and brokerage for the princely class, the comprador class, and the foreign companies, with which the technocratic bourgeoisie coexists without having any definite part in them. This leads it to serve these reactionary classes while simultaneously looking for a means of protest. The upper

echelons of the technocracy play the part of junior partner in the plundering and disposal of Saudi Arabia's national resource, while the broader sectors of this bourgeoisie, in spite of their relatively affluent life-style, live in a contradiction, first with the backward theocracy and second with the systematic pillaging of the national resources, mainly for the benefit of the princes, compradors and foreign companies.

3. The working class in Saudi Arabia is of recent formation, and it has been connected with the petroleum industry since the early 1950's. The working class is mainly concentrated in the Eastern Province, site of the oil extraction, the refineries, gas liquifaction plants and other industries, and the principal ports, specifically Ra's Tannurah. The Western Province occupies second place, since the Radifah ports, the refineries, gas liquifaction plants, iron and steel industries, several supplementary industries and some light industries are located there. In Saudi Arabia there are 20,000 large, middle-size and small industrial and commercial organizations. The Saudi working class is constantly growing in size, in spite of government unemployment in industrial projects, and in spite of the authorities' attempts to replace Saudi labor with foreign labor. The Saudi working class passed through major struggles during the 1950's and the 1960's, i.e., during the formative stage and the spread of nationalism throughout the region. The most important such struggles were the 1953 labor strikes, through which the working class achieved wage increases and reduced working hours, the brutally-suppressed 1956 strikes, and the 1966 and 1976 labor and mass movements, especially in the Eastern Province. The Saudi authorities met all these movements and strikes in which the working class had effectively and heroically participated with immediate repression and subsequent executions, and the working class did not succeed in gaining the right to strike and form unions.

The Military Agencies in Saudi Arabia

The Saudi regime, in consolidating and perpetuating its position, depends on the following military and repressive organizations and agencies:

1. The Saudi army consists of 40,000 soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers, and it is the principal military force in Saudi Arabia. At present, the army consists of an armored brigade, four infantry brigades, three artillery battalions, and a rapidly expanding air force with 180 F-5 airplanes and 37 Lightning planes. Some 60 F-15 planes recently contracted for with the United States are expected to arrive soon. Army expenses account for one-sixth of the Saudi state budget. The building and training of the armed forces is supervised by United States officers and experts distributed as follows: a 250-man mission supervising the training of Saudi officers, a 750-man team of civilian engineers working for the American Defense Department on loan to the Saudis, and a team of 1,000 experts and employees reinforcing the air force program.

There are 6,000 American officers, experts, engineers, employees and workers in the Saudi military sector, and about 3,000 Saudi officers are being trained in the United States. Military cooperation in this field has grown since the June 1974 comprehensive military-economic-political agreement concluded for the two countries by Prince Fahd and Henry Kissinger. This agreement covers the fields of defense cooperation, reinforcing the army and the navy, rocket bases, building up and

developing the National Guard, and Saudi military facilities for the United States at the Dhahran and Tabuk bases and the Khamis Mushayt rocket base in the south, which is basically targeted against the PDRY.

The build-up and development of the Saudi army is proceeding along modern lines, and the army is being expanded on these bases. Except for the Saudi National Guard, conscription into the army is not conducted along tribal lines. As in any other army, nationalist tendencies necessarily find their way into the ranks of the soldiers. In order to control the army, the authorities have recently become concerned with enlisting more princes, who represent important positions in the basic army sectors, especially the air force, the tank corps and the navy, which played a large part in putting down the popular uprising at the Holy Mosque in Mecca. The same goes for the Eastern Province, where Air Force Gen 'Abd-al-Rahman bin Sultan bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz supervised the uprising's suppression. In the army, the Fahd family, through Defense Minister Prince Sultan 'Abd-al-'Aziz, seems to be in complete control.

2. The National Guard is an old military formation, the Saudi authorities' concern for which became more intense after the 1969 coup attempt by several army officers. The National Guard consists of 40,000 men, and is formed along tribal lines. Each main tribe has one or more brigades, and one of the tribal leaders' sons is appointed commander of the tribe's brigade. Its formations are based on the administrative subdivisions of Saudi Arabia, and there are regional commanders, each of which is connected vertically to Prince 'Abdallah. As part of the policy of equilibrium, the authorities are showing serious concern for the National Guard from the standpoint of preparation, training and armament. The National Guard is fully armed with helicopters and weapons similar to those of the army, except for jet war planes and artillery.

The National Guard's principal function is internal repression, first of all, and establishing equilibrium with the army, secondly. However, the Holy Mosque incidents and the Eastern Province uprising placed the National Guard in second place, since it was mainly the army which was relied on to put down these domestic incidents. This raised more than one question about the degree of loyalty and efficiency of the National Guard for similar missions in the future.

3. The Jihad Army is a militia-like formation whose members are paid salaries without being liable to permanent service. This formation is called up when necessary, but in any case it is not a significant military force. The Jihad Army is subject to the Interior Ministry, and in this sense it is under the Fahd family's control.

4. The royal guard is a military formation connected to the king, and its main duty is to protect the royal family. It is composed of several thousand members supplied with modern light and heavy weapons. The royal guard is considered an elite formation and its members are chosen from certain tribes known for their absolute loyalty to the regime. The royal guard helped put down the Holy Mosque incidents.

5. The special forces are a military formation relatively independent from the army, connected with the chief of staff and therefore in practice to the Defense Minister. It is controlled by the Fahd family bloc, and is one of the means of reinforcing this bloc's influence.

6. The intelligence agencies are numerous and of diverse loyalties. Special Intelligence is connected with the king and the royal guard, while General Intelligence is headed by a member of the cabinet and functions under Prince Fahd's supervision. The same goes for State Security Investigations and the army's Military Intelligence. In theory, the functions of General Intelligence are limited to criminal matters, but in practice it has gone beyond this to become a political agency connected with the Interior Ministry. In addition to these central state agencies, there are also branch intelligence agencies which are subordinate to the amirs, and under their direct command. The Saudi intelligence agencies are widely influential, and their activities have the state the aspect of a police state.

In confronting the circumstances which the Saudi regime is experiencing and the contradictions which are eating away at Saudi society, as expressed by the collision between the despotic theocracy and the new social forces which are pursuing capitalist relations, the broader interests of the Saudi popular masses objectively depend on an alliance of most of the classes and social groups which are hurt by the regime's stance and policy. The objective base for this broad, antiregime class alliance would unite the workers, peasants, and the national, technocratic and petty bourgeoisie groups in a struggle concentrating on gradual goals so as to put pressure on the authorities to make constitutional reforms consistent with the basic interests of this broad class alliance. In this context, the secret political forces in Saudi Arabia can present to the Saudi masses the duties which lie in the struggle for an elected consultative assembly having legislative, parliamentary powers, an executive power subordinate to the elected consultative assembly, and a judicial power which would be free of both the official religious organizations and the executive power, in addition to the struggle for elected municipal and village councils, democratic freedoms, and the freedom to found political organizations, unions and professional organizations. Furthermore, the secret political forces in Saudi Arabia can propose a schedule for the struggle to break Saudi Arabia's connection with and subservience to American imperialism, to preserve national independence and sovereignty, to guide Saudi potentials in a strategic confrontation with United States imperialism, which threatens the independence, sovereignty and security of the people of the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle and Far East, and to employ these forces in the service of Arab national liberation causes.

These are the general lines for seizing political initiative, worthy of uniting the efforts of the Communist Party, the Islamic Revolution Organization, the Arab Labor Party, the Federation of Arabian Peninsula People, and the Nasirist Leagues in the struggle, opening the horizons of political polarization to the broad social forces in conflict and collision with Saudi government policy, and opening the horizons of struggle to the working class, the peasant masses, and the lower echelons of the petty bourgeoisie so that they may express, through political struggle, their real class interests and regain their struggling heritage as expressed

in their political uprisings and demands of 1953, 1956, 1958, 1964, and 1967--
uprisings in which the Saudi working class played a prominent, leading role.
Current circumstances in Saudi Arabia point to the inevitability of escalating
violence in the confrontation between the social classes oppressed and harmed by
the regime's policy and this despotic, theocratic regime. In the course of things,
the confrontation will take violent forms reflected in increasingly aggravated
contradictions between the socially and politically backward Saudi regime and the
social forces which are growing in scope and advancing historically.

8559

CSO: 4802

YANBU GIVEN HIGHER PRIORITY IN LIGHT OF GULF TROUBLES

London 8 DAYS in English 21 Mar 81 pp 6-11

[Text]

The small fishing village of Yanbu, on the edge of the northern desert of Saudi Arabia, is being transformed into a fully developed industrial city. In the masterplan drawn up for Jubail and Yanbu in 1975, Yanbu was little more than a sideshow - recent tensions in the Gulf and the six-month Iran-Iraq war have changed all that. Yanbu is rapidly becoming a crucial link in the Gulf security chain that is currently being welded.

In July, when the first tankers take delivery of crude, which has travelled 1,200km along the most sophisticated pipeline ever built, it will be the first time the West has lifted oil from the western side of the Arabian Peninsula. Western businessmen, petrodollar bankers and tanker captains will breathe a little easier then, for there will be a new outlet for oil apart from the strife torn Gulf.

The oil market is awaiting news of the prices to be charged for oil lifted at Yanbu. Officials in the new city are however confident that even if the oil costs more than on the east coast, buyers from Europe and America will be happy to pay the premium to avoid the rigours of the Gulf, and the extra 2,000km of sailing involved.

JAMAL RASHEED reports on the brave new city of Yanbu.

FROM JULY, for the first time in the short but momentous history of oil, the Arabian Peninsula will have an outlet for the precious commodity on its west coast along the Red Sea. This new oil outlet for Saudi Arabia at Yanbu could come at no better time. With the prospect of the world's oil tankers running the gauntlet up the Gulf — surrounded by superpower warships, turbulence to the right of them and war up ahead — many tanker captains from the West will soon breathe easier.

On 3 July the \$1.64bn east-west Saudi crude oil pipeline is due to begin pumping 1.85 million barrels a day of crude across to Yanbu. The initial flow could well expand to 2.4m b/d, a figure exceeding the oil production of many Opec states. Ultimately, further expansion could mean a flow of 4m b/d.

Yanbu itself is the creation of a 1975 Royal Decree which set up a Royal Commission to implement the basic infrastructure for two new industrial cities — at Jubail and Yanbu. The 30-year master plan for Yanbu completed in 1977 provided for an eight-year 'first phase action programme'. Even so, Yanbu was originally to be a small sideshow compared to its city-sister Jubail on the Gulf coast. The last two years have seen that change completely.

Yanbu, 350km north of Jeddah, was a small fishing village, lying between the foothills of the Hejaz mountains and the Red Sea. It generated most of its income from being the second Hajj port for pilgrims travelling from Egypt and Sudan to Mecca and Medina, and its livelihood suffered badly during the Suez Canal closure. The

new 200 sq km industrial site is on a 25 km sea front 10 km south of the old city.

The first-phase plan called for a city to accommodate 150,000 people, a new airport, a port complex and a single refinery, with a small industrial park. That was soon increased to three refineries, and recently the Director of Yanbu, Dr Yousif Alturki, told *8 Days* that a fourth refinery is now planned. Saudi Arabia Parsons, a Saudi joint venture with the US multinational Ralph Parsons, is management services contractor to the Royal Commission.

A total of 3,000 workers have just completed the 1,207 km east-west oil pipeline. Saipem of Italy built the eastern section; CAT-Houston, a US construction giant, the western. The pipeline is now being hydrotested under high pressure. The engineering is formidable: 11 pump stations en route each house three massive 27,000 hp Pratt and Whitney turbines which, remarkably, can run on any fuel — liquefied natural gas, diesel or even crude oil straight from the pipeline. The strategic benefits of this are obvious: as a Mobil technician told *8 Days*, the military and security aspects of this operation in the heart of the Arabian desert, are as important as the economic benefits.

The six-day journey for oil lifted from the east will end in eleven, one million barrel capacity storage tanks in Yanbu. It will then be pumped into waiting tankers. Three pump stations en route are permanently manned by Mobil-Petromin teams, and a computer will advise maintenance operators on performance. Electronic sensors along the line will contribute to security.

Five refineries and petrochemical complexes are planned for Yanbu. They are:

- Petromin's domestic refinery, originally planned for Jeddah. It will be ready in 1982 and produce 170,000 b/d. Tanker barges and trucks will transport the refined products all over the kingdom.

- A Petromin-Mobil export refinery, producing 250,000 b/d, due to be ready in January, 1984. Once it is in operation, exports of crude will be drastically reduced. Work on the site is still in its initial stages.

- Sabic-Mobil's petrochemical refinery, also due to be ready in January, 1984, producing the equivalent of 450,000 b/d in lubricants and other oils. Mainly for export purposes, it will also feed many of the small industries springing up in Yanbu's new industrial park. It will use ethane feedstock and cost \$1.6 bn.

- Petromin-Ashland's lubrications plant, producing 5,000 b/d.

- The Aramco natural gas liquids (NGL) fractionating plant.

The last is clearly going to be the star operation. It is part of the massive Saudi gas gathering programme which in a few years will utilise all gas produced in conjunction with crude oil. The gas will be gathered at three centres on the east coast — at Berri, Uthmaniyah and Shadgum — and then shipped through the special NGL pipeline which is running parallel to the crude oil line. Initially this 'most advanced computer controlled pipeline in the world' will deliver 270,000 b/d of natural gas liquid (NGL) to Yanbu, but its capacity can be expanded by 50 per cent.

NGL fractionated by Aramco will supply ethane for Yanbu's basic fuel and petrochemical feedstock, and propane, ethane, natural gas, Isopenten, butane and naphtha for export. The plant will have its own two-berth harbour where another 4,000 m pipeline will feed waiting tankers. The entire plant will employ only 600 people.

To meet these expanded plans, Yanbu port has been enlarged from two berths to nine. There are five man-made special-purpose harbours, built alongside each of the industrial plants, in what a Parsons executive told *8 Days* was 'the largest marine development programme in the world'. A crude oil terminal and port have been established capable of storing 11 m barrels of oil, and there are separate oil harbours for the export refinery, the domestic refinery and the Aramco NGL plant. A 'construction support harbour' solely to handle imported construction materials, will also be maintained.

Yanbu's industrial park, still being developed, will accommodate anticipated construction based industries, food processing and consumer goods manufacturing. Dr Alturki said that twenty leases have already been signed for factories to produce such varied materials as fibreglass, pre-cast concrete and asphalt.

The joint Sudanese-Saudi commission has already started work on analysing mineral deposits in the Red Sea with a view to eventual exploration (see pages 50-51), and if precious minerals are commercially exploited Yanbu will grow further in importance as it will serve as harbour as well as grader and refiners.

Yanbu city is clearly one of the most ambitious urban development schemes in the world. Parsons executives unashamedly

call it a visionary example of total planning. European contractors in Jeddah confirmed that no European consultancy firm could hope to offer such a mammoth, all-embracing conceptual plan for urban development.

Ronald L. Hommedieu, Parsons programme director at Yanbu, told *8 Days* that a mixed team well versed in Arabic culture and social mores studied the plan for 15 months before completing it in 1977.

In a huge public works programme, 200km of streets are being laid for the Al Nawa, Yanbu's residential village, as is a sewage and solid waste disposal system capable of handling 13,000 tonnes a year.

Already in operation are two desalination plants of 24,000 cubic metres per day capacity, an output which will be doubled by 1984. The present electricity capacity of 80MW will be raised to 480MW when a massive power plant being built beside the Red Sea is finished. A water recycling process will prevent wastage, and an extensive pipe system is being laid to bring in sea water as a cooling agent for the power stations and the desalination plants.

At the moment there are three schools at Yanbu, one each for Arab boys and girls and one an international school for non-Muslim children. A 68-bed hospital, run by Shanska of Sweden is serving the

Manpower problems continue but Yanbu offers hope

THE MANPOWER problems that Yanbu is facing now — and will face in the future — reflect, in miniature, the labour problems that Saudi Arabia faces as whole. The new, third Five Year Plan, including a massive educational programme, and intensive efforts by every government department to 'Saudiise' the country seem sure to encounter great difficulty in training the required number of Saudi personnel.

By the end of 1981, long term estimates by the Royal Commission predict that there will be a total of 31,900 workers on-site at Yanbu, along with another 5,000 managerial staff. The latter figure would include 310 Saudis employed by the Royal Commission and 1,150 managerial staff of Parsons. However, at present there are only 132 Saudi members of the Royal Commission in Yanbu and it is unlikely that the commission will be able to triple its staff to the required figure by the end of the year. Saudisation is thus already well behind and an official in Jeddah admitted that the numbers of Saudis that would be available had been over-estimated. The Royal Commission also has a current workforce of 8,000 labourers, largely foreign.

By 1985 there will be 12,360 on-site workers at Yanbu and 1,400 managerial staff running the industries and support services. It is also hoped that by then there will be 760 Saudi members of the Royal Commission. As the accompanying table shows, even by the year 2000 less than half the projected workforce will be Saudi: that is, 13,400 nationals as opposed to 19,600 non-Saudis.

The Royal Commission in Yanbu is setting out to unravel the manpower problem and tackle Saudisation in a determined manner. Alturki told *8 Days* that a Human Resource Development Institute will be set up in the new city next year, mainly to train personnel for the running of the twin cities. It hopes to turn out 1,000 Saudi students a year by 1985, who will be trained in managerial and craft techniques.

As part of an interim training programme, 125 Saudis are learning basic managerial skills. Recruitment for Yanbu will be helped when the permanent city is completed and workers will be able to move in with their families. At present many Saudis leave

their families in Jeddah or Riyadh because of a shortage of accommodation.

A lot will also depend on the actions of individual companies. Aramco has already hired an all-time high figure of 5,600 Saudis this year for its operation on the east coast. This will clearly benefit the Saudisation programme for the Aramco's NGL plant in Yanbu. The Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), which will be responsible for many of the new industries going up in Jubail and Yanbu, will need 14,000 qualified personnel to run the heavy industries planned for the two cities. Initial SABIC estimates were that 25 per cent of that workforce would be Saudi, but the corporation is now confidently trying to achieve a figure of 30 per cent, which will mean that 4,000 highly qualified nationals will be needed in the next five years.

Royal Commission officials in Yanbu, especially Alturki, were very frank in discussing manpower problems at Yanbu. They acknowledged there were severe problems but were equally confident that the Royal Commission would be able to meet its targets.

small community and there are magnificent recreational facilities, including 18 swimming pools, floodlit tennis courts, a 51m football/ baseball field with artificial turf, modern shops and theatres. Three television channels are also available, a golf course is planned and beaches are being developed.

Most western families now live in small but comfortable air-conditioned prefab homes and there are huge bachelor labour camps. Aramco has brought two hotel ships from the east coast to house workers at the NGL plant. Elh ship houses 1,400 men and is a self-contained unit providing its own electricity, water, recreation and food.

However, the programme to build a permanent community is under way and a Saudi-US joint venture, CEO Petira, has just won the first contract to build 1,200 homes for the permanent new city of Yanbu. Villas, apartments and workers hostels will be mixed together in self-contained districts with supporting facilities such as mosques, libraries and clinics. A total of five clinics and a new 300-bed hospital are planned as are 41 elementary schools and eight intermediate colleges. Twenty-six thousand telephone lines have already been installed and Yanbu can be dialled direct from anywhere in Europe or the US.

By 1983 there will be 34,000 permanent houses in Yanbu and the desert will have become unrecognisable as a massive shrubbery and tree planting operation is complete.

What assessments can be made of the entire Yanbu project? Six months ago it was still being scoffed at by many western economists who considered it unviable and uneconomical. The Gulf war quickly changed all that.

As Ronald L. Hommedieu told *Oil Days*: 'The political importance of Yanbu was considered long before the area became volatile and the wisdom of the decision taken then is proved every day by events around us. Yanbu's political and strategic importance to the West cannot now be over-emphasised but Royal Commission officials are keen to stress that the basic

decisions were taken many years ago, when there was a great deal of resistance to the whole idea.

Saudi officials in Jeddah make it clear that Yanbu is being quickly integrated into the entire mosaic of the present six-nation Gulf security agreement headed by Saudi Arabia. Consequently, Yanbu will be developed according to political and strategic needs as they evolve. There has already been speculation that other Gulf states will be guaranteed access to the oil pipeline if their own oil exports are jeopardised. Kuwait is keen to have use of a pipeline which bypasses the Straits of Hormuz, either across Saudi Arabia or overland to a point further down the east coast.

Dr Alturki stressed the national importance of Yanbu. 'It will mean the diversification of the economic base from a single-source to multi-source economy, will enhance regional development by a wider distribution of industries, and rapidly develop manpower resources,' he said. Alturki himself is an example of the new highly-motivated Saudi technocrat. He holds a PhD in organic geochemistry and speaks four languages fluently. 'We have a lot of eager young people here who are changing the face of the desert.'

Never before have the predominantly oil economies of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states felt more acutely their dependence on this one commodity, and the need to diversify. Thus Yanbu can never be considered as just a national venture by the Saudis. It will be tied in to the overall economic, political and military strategy of Gulf security. What was to be a pilot relation to the industrial giant that is still being built in Jubail is now rising as a giant in its own right.

This city, mushrooming out of the stark desert landscape will play an increasingly important strategic role in the global picture. Even if the oil taps are still controlled in the east, an outlet on the west coast of Saudi Arabia will give safer and easier access to Saudi oil.

In July, when the first tanker leaves Yanbu harbour with a cargo of crude, the Gulf will never be the same again.

Projected manpower requirements

YANBU	1980	1981	1983	1985	1990	2000
Total population	19,660	39,800	50,400	54,500	75,000	125,000
Total employment	18,200	36,200	32,300	26,200	23,000	33,000
Saudis employed	400	1,100	2,700	4,600	6,100	13,400
Non-Saudis employed	17,800	35,100	29,600	21,600	16,900	19,600

Compiled from Royal Commission figures

EXPATRIATE SITUATION REVIEWED IN NATION

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 19 Feb 81 p 4

[Article by Nicolas B. Tatro]

[Text]

EUROPEAN doctors and nurses staff the Kingdom's hospitals, Americans advise on military affairs and oil production, Yemenis pump gasoline, Egyptians teach school, Koreans work construction sites and Pakistanis wait tables.

Saudi Arabia, with a native population of only seven million, has become increasingly dependent on outsiders as huge sums of petrodollars are spent to modernize.

The 1.5 to 2.5 million foreigner workers, however, have no stake in Saudi Arabia's future and many resent the invisible wall that separates them from the close-knit, family-oriented Saudi society.

Saudis tend to view the foreigners as a necessary evil, and some complain that the economic mercenaries are loafers who too frequently violate Muslim religious ban on drinking and illicit sex.

Some Western analysts view Saudi Arabia's long-term dependence on foreigners as a threat to the stability of the

world's largest oil exporter.

They note that Muslim and Arabic-speaking immigrants joined Saudi religious fanatics in the two-week takeover of the Grand Mosque in Mecca in November-December 1979 in which the extremists demanded the overthrow of the Saudi Monarchy.

Control

Determined to lessen dependence on outsiders, the Government has launched a concerted effort to "Saudiize" key sectors of the economy and contain the growth of the foreign population.

Most workers are not allowed to bring their families and police periodically round up and deport foreigners without approved jobs.

In recent months, the national airline Saudia has replaced foreigners with nationals in ground maintenance and estimates that half of its pilots are Saudis. Even so, more than half its 18,756 employees are foreigners.

In a Government-ordered move, Saudi interests took financial control of Citibank, an American bank, last July and renamed it the Saudi-American Bank. A 100 percent takeover of the Arabian-American Oil Company

(ARAMCO) is also being completed.

"Ultimately the foreigners may leave us and we don't want to be left empty-handed, looking at machines we don't know how to run," said Deputy Higher Education Minister Mahmoud Safar.

Safar says the Government has no plans to encourage immigration. Rather, it will encourage Saudis to have larger families to help solve its long-range manpower needs.

The Government particularly wants Saudis working as teachers, doctors and engineers, but Safar said even with special financial incentives for the sciences, the College of Business is far more popular.

Strain

The Government is frustrated by a strong Bedouin tribal tradition that scorns manual labour. The U.S.-Saudi Joint Economic Commission set up a program to train technicians, electricians and plumbers. "We just couldn't fill the positions," one official said.

The Government also discourages Saudi women from working. Ministry of Planning

figures show 103,000 Saudi women work in a labour force of 2.4 million. In five years, a three percent increase is forecast.

"It is not yet acceptable," explained Riyadh University Director Mansour Turki. He said about 5,000 women students were enrolled in the 17,000-student school, and most will become teachers, nurses, or social workers although one recently graduated in engineering.

The Government's five-year plan forecasts little change in dependence on outsiders, although that relationship shows signs of strain.

In Jidda, the Red Sea port town of 1.3 million where foreigners constitute 52 percent of the population, Yemenis and Pakistanis have taken over one of the oldest quarters, known as Mazloom.

Abdel Hal, a shop worker who immigrated from North Yemen seven years ago, said 15 to 20 people often share an apartment which rents for an average of 300 U.S. dollars a month. Pointing to a pile of rubble, Hal said that buildings periodically collapse and "the Government has done nothing."

However, Mayor Sayed Al Farsi said in an interview that 600 of the multi-storey houses with intricately carved wooden balconies and windows were due for restoration, including one occupied briefly by the British Arabist T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia).

Somali Town, another older section taken over by African immigrants, has a reputation as a red-light district. "If a White man is seen riding in a car with a black woman, the police get suspicious and you can get arrested," said one Pakistani.

Double standard

Illicit sex is severely punished — sometimes by beheading in a public square. Theft can mean losing a hand and drinking alcohol can lead to flogging, jail or deportation.

Enforcement is left to religious police called "Muttawa," who also makes sure shops are closed at prayer times.

Saudi officials say that if religious values are lost the nation will collapse, and boast that their society — unlike the West — has safe streets and little violent crime.

Foreign workers interviewed in several Saudi cities complained of a double standard.

"If a foreigner drives too fast or has an accident, he goes to jail but not a Saudi," said Mohammed Kamal Butt of Lahore, who has worked for a year in a car rental firm in Jidda.

In the new industrial city of Yenbo, 359 kilometers north of Jidda on the Red Sea coast, there are 17,000 foreign workers and only about 400 Saudi nationals. Officials literature indicates foreigners will dominate through the year 2006. That alarms some observers who believe settled workers with families are more likely to demand a say in how things are run.

Recreation

In Yenbo, 2,400 Filipino and Korean construction workers live on a four-storey barge called Rabiah. They live in cramped cabins, work 12-hour shifts seven days a week and rarely have contact with Saudis.

"I'm just here for the money," said 26-year-old X-ray technician Renato Samblay from Manila, who earns 750 U.S. dollars a month, or about double his salary back home.

Arturo Pesano of Sabu City, the Philippines, said tensions had developed with the Koreans over use of the limited recreational facilities. Diplomatic sources said Koreans recently rioted at another construction site over working conditions.

One frequent complaint of the foreign worker is that there is little to do with leisure time. "This is just a minimum security prison," said an accountant from Texas who lives in a modern compound with a swimming pool and videotape system that brings in U.S. TV serials. "There are no nightclubs, movies or bars."

Arabic-speaking immigrants pose a more serious problem, especially the influx across the long and largely guarded borders with Yemen. In a recently published interview, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nail Bin Abdelaziz said the government planned to crack down on widespread arms smuggling.

OIL CUTBACK LIKELY DESPITE DENIALS

London 8 DAYS in English 21 Mar 81 p 42

[Article by Andrew Lumsden]

[Text]

ANDREW LUMSDEN predicts that the market will be swept by rumours of Opec production cutbacks, so as to bolster prices. But one report claims that the industrialised world's demand for Opec oil is set to fall by 1982.

SAUDI ARABIA'S vigorous denials do not change the belief in the marketplace that the volume of crude Aramco is allowed to lift from Saudi Arabia will be cut. There were technical factors behind the current 25-50 cents a barrel rise in spot crude prices after the four-month slide, namely the 5.2m barrel strategic stockpile purchase by the US, and a return to the spot market by Japanese buyers. But even as the temporary upswing fades away, as it is likely to do, the market will be swept by persistent rumours of lowered Saudi ceilings to deal with the erosion in producers' per barrel earnings.

The recent return of some 1.6m bpd of combined Iran/Iraq crude exports, with the prospect of much higher deliveries fairly soon, is only one factor underlying the gathering expectation of price-bolstering production restraint by Opec. Other factors range from Standard Oil of California's renewed bid for the mining conglomerate AMAX (a \$4bn offer) and a new Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report.

A partner in Aramco, and the first to find oil in the Arabian desert, Socal is one of the few oil companies with a net surplus of upstream oil. However, two-thirds of its 3m

bpd of crude comes from Saudi Arabia and the company is showing great eagerness to widen its base of assets and earnings, now that Aramco no longer controls Saudi production targets.

The new EIU report *Rising Oil Prices and World Economic Output* asserts that oil prices have now reached their correct level in terms of supply and demand (currently over-supply, under-demand) and that the balance will shift still further in favour of the consuming industrialised world by the end of the 1980s and through the 1990s. If this prediction of the effects of lowered economic growth, lower ratios of energy growth to GNP growth, and switches to non-oil energy sources is a good working hypothesis, as many think it is (though it should be noted that South Korea and Japan alone still contemplate importing an extra 3m bpd or so in total by around 1990), then producers face a sustained year-on-year decline in the real value of their sales.

The EIU emphasises its suggestion that the oil price has reached its correct level is 'theoretical'. The remedial action is in the hands of Opec: lower production by general agreement. And that is what the market obstinately believes will happen, sooner rather than later.

The pressure exerted by anticipation was dramatically demonstrated in the last few days by the widespread reports of what was actually said at the secret Geneva meeting of six Opec members (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Algeria, Venezuela and Indonesia) on 23-24 February. It was

apparently a no-agenda meeting convened at Indonesia's request to take an overall view of the oil situation, including the repercussions of the Gulf war and the supply-demand balance.

While allegedly no decisions were taken — which is confirmed by Sheikh Yamani's dismissal of reports that it was agreed at Geneva to cut Opec output by 2.5m b/d — the consensus is that Saudi Arabia came under pressure to prepare for output reduction, paving the way to controlled price recovery indexed to inflation.

In a sense, the Geneva meeting was picking up on the long-term strategy planning in which Opec staff were engaged before the complete disruption caused by the outbreak of war between Iraq and Iran. There seemed, at Geneva, a reasonable prospect that the end of the war was in sight, a prospect which has again receded. Meanwhile a very wide range of Opec business has been in potentially damaging suspension. The balance between production and prices has been jeopardised, with Saudi Arabia using its price-deflating over-production to try and enforce a return to uniform Opec pricing, and the African states — plus no doubt

Indonesia — wanting Saudi cutbacks which would restore their lost premiums.

Moreover, Opec aid to the Third World and revival of the North-South Dialogue are endangered. Some concession by Saudi Arabia to follow Opec members is currently being hinted at, in the shape of a 500,000 b/d slowdown in the second quarter of 1981, or 9.5m b/d against some 10m b/d first quarter production. The Saudi 'official' ceiling, meaning the intended norm in ordinary conditions, is 8.5m b/d.

The call by the industrialised world and other buyers on Opec oil is expected, on this view, to tumble by some 3.3m b/d between now and 1982, compared with a 1.6m b/d drop in overall free world oil purchasing. The redoubled impact on Opec members of the comparatively small free world consumption decline is due, of course, to success in tapping new fields outside Opec control. Saudi Arabia consistently warns against expectations that it will bear the full weight of falling demand (if it falls) for Opec crudes, and there are plenty of analysts who believe the Saudis. But the 'extreme' position quoted would be bad tidings for Aramco partners such as Social, Texaco, Exxon and Mobil.

CSO: 4820

'AL-HAWADITH' REVIEWS CONTENTS OF NUMAYRI'S NEW BOOK

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Dec 80 pp 76-77

[Article: "al-Numayri poses a few Questions About Moscow's Role in the Conspiracy of the Sudanese Communist Party"]

[Text] Writers are of two kinds: One explains experience as he views it, and the other lays down or adopts a theoretical framework of a philosophy and defends that view through action and reflection.

The Sudanese President, Muhammad Ja'far Numayri, is of the former kind. He is an author and writer, he has a particular style which moves from harsh classical Arabic as in the introduction to his book "Why the Islamic Way," to an easy language whose sentences, thoughts, and words flow with machine-gun rapidity and power.

President Numayri lives and has lived through and with an experience that is one of a kind. He has exposed himself to death on several occasions, due to coup d'etat attempts undertaken by both Communists and non-Communists in Sudan. President Numayri has considerable experience in government and, as any ruler, he has found himself confronted by the difficult question: Which model of organization should we choose? In the world today there are numerous schools of political, economic, and social thought--which of them is most appropriate for Sudan?

And if we choose Islam--President Numayri asks himself--then which school of Islam should we follow? Is Islam fundamentally a political and economic system?

President Numayri does not directly broach these questions in his book, "Why the Islamic Way," but, as they say, 'You can tell a book by its cover.' President Numayri's book takes Islam as a perfected theory and he does not single out one aspect and omit another. Even the pardoning of the Communists President Numayri justifies by a development that occurred early in Islam: the Islamic religion is the religion of forgiveness and forbearance, it is the religion of compassion.

With all humility this guileless son of Sudan admits that he is not the worthiest to write about Islam. The first question he proposes is "How to return to Islam?"

President Numayri also admits that he is not the worthiest man capable of answering this question. "I only possess the instinct of a faithful Muslim, nothing more. Neither opportunity nor aptitude have been bountiful enough for me to look profoundly into religious matters..."

But that does not prevent President Numayri from comprehending with certainty, faith, acceptance, contentment and conviction that Islam's a source of vitality for mankind, both in this world and the next. This source of vitality has given President Numayri some ideas "which have accumulated over the years, that consciousness of Islam begins as an instinctive feeling which is then mixed with what is read and what is heard and linked with practice, the Muslim's conduct of his life, the Muslim's view of his reality, the Muslim's urge to attain his goals, the Muslim's view of his reality, the Muslim's urge to attain his goals, the Muslim's aim to make his religion triumph, the Muslim's desire to leap forward and avoid apostasy."

The President believes that the messages of the prophets were calls to have faith and to oppose tyranny... He particularly concentrates on tyranny and he offers as proofs excerpts from the Holy Koran; "Go to Pharoah, for he is really a tyrant." Therefore the prophetic messages were directed at tyranny. "It is a message whose essence opposes the injustice of the oppressor and the coercion of the tyrant."

Justice is what contradicts tyranny. And the Islamic message is what "sees to justice where there is injustice, is what extracts the truth when there is falsehood, and what helps the oppressed wherever there is fear. It is God's presence and mercy, love, concord, and support for righteousness and piety. It is the denial of iniquity and enmity. It strives to change things for the better, it justly endeavors to move to what is more perfect. It repudiates falsehood, polytheism, unbelief, heresy, and false accusation." The appeal of Muhammad was "the nucleus replacing values that were well-established, the beginning of legislating new relationships that are not ruled by property, genealogy, documents, or ethnic solidarity."

On the esteemed Prophet's birthday, President Numayri moved to end the disunion in which Sudan lives. He compared, read, and then found the answer which was always in Islam: "It is not a religion of discord, but rather it is the religion of unity."

President Numayri quickly sums up his life before coming to power: from military college to the Western Command, then a role in the setting up of the Free Officers, with the unique aim of accelerating the "sudanization" of the army, and working actively to develop it.

Through nights of sadness, contemplation, and planning President Numayri used to repeat over and over the words of Muhammad: "None among us appeals to tribal solidarity, and none among us dies for partisanship." He was always saying what Muhammad said: "There is none more unjust than he who summons the people to discord."

The Sudanese President turns to the ills and afflictions of Sudan. First, the South, about which he asks; What remains of it? It has been transformed from a site of civil strife to an opening for world war, regional ambitions, and attempts to surround and besiege..."

President Numayri turns to "the cause of democratic practice." In Sudan there have been concentrations of power, concentrations that began within factions, turned into fronts for parties, then appeared on the streets, and then turned to the outside world seeking arms--and they got arms."

Arms were gathered by every side, all that remained was the moment of confrontation.

He then goes directly into the confrontation with the Sudanese Communist Party. He admits from the start that "the orientation of my thinking and the points of departure of my creed" do not permit a compromise "with communistic thinking."

When the Revolution broke out "the late Abd-al-Nasir sent some representatives who conveyed his support with expressions that kindled flames of pride in the heart. His letter--may God have mercy on him and forgive him--said: 'Sudan's Revolution is the best bandage for June's wound. It is proof of the vitality of the Arab nation, and its power to overcome despair.'"

President Numayri begins to relate what could be called "Memoirs." They are not memoirs in the proper sense; they are only incidents whose details are not made known in the way President Numayri presents them.

Once the communists in Sudan wanted to involve Sudan in a quadripartite state. Sudan did not comply with their desire to do this. Even the Sudanese Communists had demanded unity it would not have mattered, but it seemed that they wanted to test President Numayri. This put him in no more or less than a critical situation.

President Numayri says that at that time "We were confronting changing circumstances within the Arab region, particularly after the 1 September Revolution occurred in Libya. They demanded integration and complete unification. The controversy began with a dialogue and ended up with a collision.

"We were declaring our commitments vis-a-vis Egypt to be part of Egypt's deeper strategy." Sudan had to bear the burden of changing from Western doctrine in training and armament to Eastern doctrine. At that time the Communist betrayal began. A communist pamphlet appeared in Sudan that spoke about a quadripartite union which comprised Sudan, Syria, Libya, and Egypt. "Despite the fact it was to be joint rule, we opposed any move to make Sudan a partner in a union whose time we feel has not yet come. We declared to all parties that our road to achieve union will be a long one. First, we must achieve national unity within Sudan, build the Sudanese economy, establish constitutional political organizations, and complete the build up of the armed forces, then after that we can turn back to the people and seek their opinions in a direct referendum on the issue of union--whether they accept it or reject it--one man, one vote."

The Communists rejected Numayri's reasoning. Their ambition for power and rule was one of their justifications. But what was the Soviet Union's ambition in Sudan?

President Numayri is greatly amazed by the Soviet attitude, and he says literally: "Up to today I cannot be sure about the Soviet Union's position on the issue of providing arms and their rush to grant everything we asked while, at the same time, Egypt, under 'Abd-al-Nasir and then later during Sadat's regime, was constantly complaining about the slowness of the Soviet Union in delivering arms, especially since Egypt was confronting an enemy that occupied parts of its territory."

President Numayri wonders: "Did the Soviet Union want to cement its relations with the new regime in Sudan and thus it gave extravagantly? Or was the Soviet Union supporting the point of view of the 3 (that is the 3 Sudanese officers) and behind them the Sudanese Communist Party for some reason?

President Numayri follows that question with another question: Then why did the Soviet Union afterwards keep up its usual pressure which led to its prohibiting any further supply to Sudan of spare parts for weapons, equipment, and planes--transforming them all into piles of iron?

Is this the anger that is a result of the conspiracy which ended the myth of the biggest Communist Party in the region? Or is this a right of those who have failed?

President Numayri turns to the magnanimity of the Sudanese, and repeats the words of the Prophet Muhammad: "Go away, for you are the Tulaqa' [Meccans who converted at the last moment for expediency's sake only]".

This is not all that is in President Numayri's book. It contains chapters on the internal development and growth of Sudan, its relations with its sister Arab states, and a chapter on the reconciliation of subjects and ruler.

9587

CSO: 4802

ASSASSINATION POSSIBLE SIGNAL OF MORE INTERNECINE FIGHTING IN ERITREA

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Dec 80-11 Jan 81 pp 44-45

[Article from Khartoum: "The Mysteries of the Assassination of the Eritrean Leader 'Uthman 'Ajib in Khartoum"]

[Text] Saturday evening on 15 November 1980, unusual movement invaded the streets of Khartoum in a quiet and attractive neighborhood, near the international airport.

Near the door of the "Canary" Hotel one of the important members of the Eritrean leadership fell splattered in blood and another man fell with him; the criminal fled from his crime discharging the remaining bullets of his gun into the air. The identity of the victim was not a difficult matter. The murdered man was 'Uthman Hasan 'Ajib, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front (People's Liberation Forces) who was a boarder at the hotel accustomed to staying there whenever he came to Khartoum. As the capital also knew, he was one of the commanders of the Eritrean revolution who have operated in Sudan since the 60s. He held many important posts in the revolution.

On that black night, the news spread with amazing rapidity; the assassination roused general indignation; accusations began to circulate, one explanation after another was offered, and the news could be neither proved nor disproved by those who heard it.

The act itself was unprecedented, the method used was the first of its kind in Sudan.

An old-timer in the Sudanese civil service who had worked in Eritrea at the time of the British mandate recalled the period of the 40s. He spoke to a Sudanese citizen about the assassinations that occurred among the Eritreans before the UN resolution that denied independence to Eritrea. Accusations flew about, some pointing to the Eritreans, and others leading to one of the so-called foreign elements which had an interest in harming the Eritrean revolution. However some observers link the deportation of the Cuban charge' d'Affaires with the assassination.

Newspapers published in Khartoum referred to the incident and described what occurred without commentary other than saying that Mr 'Ajib was supposed to be the leader of an especially extreme faction, while the news agencies carried the news of the assassination with a little detail.

The Eritrean leaders offered their explanations also; one who was quick to respond to the report was Mr 'Uthman Sabi who depicted the incident as an attempt to injure Eritrean-Sudanese relations. The Eritrean Liberation Front (Revolutionary Council) said that the incident was a new method that the Eritrean revolution had not advocated, and that Ethiopia was behind the incident. Also it did not neglect the subject of injury to Eritrean-Sudanese relations. It went along with what 'Uthman Sabi said.

But there remains more to the matter than the commentaries of the news agencies that were quick to relay the news, or in the comments of the Eritrean leadership to ward off suspicions. For what occurred was not merely an ordinary crime, or an isolated incident, because it was a political assassination that had as its target a personality within the Eritrean revolution at a time which was full of possibilities supported by many events which together showed that the Eritrean problem was entering a new phase toward implementation of an impending political settlement.

Achievement of this result was preceded by successive events which complemented one another: physical liquidations, military and political retreats, and foreign moves even with the government of Ethiopia.

Examples of assassinations and arrests that have happened to individuals of the Eritrean leadership include that of Sa'id Husayn and with him another group in the (Dankaliya) Area who rebelled against the Eritrean Liberation Front command that had accused them of being part of a secret party within the leadership that had good ties with the Ethiopian regime. Likewise internal power struggles have left a great number of victims among leaders and fighters in battles that broke out between the arguing factions.

The arrests are numerous, the most notable of which were the arrests of Ibrahim Idris Muhammed Adam, Hamid Turki, and Ja'far 'Ali Asad who were among the first Eritrean youths to join the revolution. The charge leveled against them was that they were supporters of the Arab Nationalist trend within Eritrea.

Of course these samples of the internal relations of the revolution did not arise in a vacuum. The problems of the revolution in Eritrea are many; they were compounded by the outbreak of civil war between the Eritrean Liberation Front (Revolutionary Council) and the Eritrean Liberation Front (People's Liberation Forces). This war lasted for 2 years from 1972 to 1974; but the results which followed it did not amount to more than the immediate losses of the civil war.

From one point of view, Ethiopia witnessed the removal of Haile Selassie and then entered a phase of weakness that lasted until 1977. The officers of the

Eritrean revolution squandered a choice opportunity, and these realities are reflected as a consequence on internal circumstances today.

Instead of profitting from the situation in Ethiopia to make some gains, the leaders and the factions of the revolution viewed with one another to liberate the area's cities at a time when they were not yet united in their revolution. Here they committed a tremendous error, for they discovered that the backbone of the revolution lay in the protection of the people and the mountains of Eritrea. So organizational factionalism took its toll.

In contrast to what those following the deployment of the armed forces of the revolution imagined, these internal divisions had grown deeper, confusing friends and enemies alike.

In 1975, 2 wings of the Eritrean Liberation Front (the Revolutionary Council and the People's Liberation Forces) arrived at a unification agreement that did not last since the Eritrean Liberation Front has since renounced it. That led to suspicions within the organization about what caused it to lose its internal unity and weakened its ties with outside supporters, particularly the many Arab states that had shared in bringing the Eritreans together in this agreement.

The Eritrean Liberation Front (People's Liberation Forces) which was led by 'Uthman Salih Sabi was suffering from internal division and Asyas Ifwurgi (?) who had repudiated the above mentioned agreement and had accused the political leadership of individualism and lack of discipline set himself up as leader and founded the People's Front for the Liberation of Eritrea with some of his colleagues in the military command.

It has been noted that the revolution in the period from 1969 to 1976 moved in the direction of continuous schisms, and the internal struggles within it became most violent at a time when Ethiopia began to regain its power by creating firm ties with the Soviets and emerging in a more favorable position of power after the Ogaden war in particular. Colonel Mengistu was able to strip Somalia of its friends and directed surprise strikes against other power centers in the government. Commanding these strikes was General Aman Andum, then Taghri-Benti.

In finding a solution to this it was difficult for the Eritrean revolution to become fully effective, for it was in an unenviable position. Especially after Ethiopia dispatched large military detachments to recover the cities it had lost. Ethiopia was even able to virtually besiege the revolution even in the Western region which was absolutely loyal to the revolution.

Meanwhile Ethiopian propaganda became more intensive and the Emperor took responsibility for the internal disturbances. He tried to contain the revolution, while some revolutionary groups began to dole out praise for Ethiopia without Ethiopia's first having given any concessions. Then the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front began to flirt with the Addis Ababa government and spoke of its enemy in language that is usually addressed to a friend, in a conspicuous manner that is unusual in revolutions.

This very point, has persisted up till today without any reasonable explanation other than that of a strategic and tactical tradition that has prompted the Eritreans to believe what has happened is a matter that brands the Revolutionary Council with retreat from the cause. It seems that that was shortly before preparations to accept a political solution within an Ethiopian framework--a solution that had perhaps not yet been fully developed by the secret party which the Eritreans talked about on more than one occasion.

To counter the charges of the Eritrean popular base concerning this course of action, internal purges occurred more and more frequently and violently, on the pretext that a political solution would not come until they struck hard at those factions that rejected a compromise with Ethiopia in any form that would not lead to complete independence.

These developments were in harmony with the initiatives of the Sudanese regime that indefatigably and unswervingly declared that it wanted a happy outcome to the Ethiopian-Eritrean struggle; something like the accord that was reached in the South of Sudan. Numayri considered that the cause of Eritrea was an internal Ethiopian problem which had inherent international aspects because of the huge tide of Eritrean refugees that had spilled out to the nations surrounding Ethiopia.

Numayri packed his bags and went to Freetown to meet with Colonel Mengistu after both factions, the Revolutionary Council and the People's Forces, concluded an accord in 1978 at the negotiating table which included officials of the May regime.

Both the Sudanese and Ethiopian regimes pretended that their negotiations had failed although there were confirmed reports that said that a timetable had been set for secret committees to exchange information, contacts, and visits until the Eritrean changes developed to the point that the joint stand could be brought out in the open.

But tensions in Eritrea began to mount even between the two sides that had agreed to negotiate unconditionally with Ethiopia after the 1979 accord. What was strange was that these 2 groups were led by some people who professed a Marxist affiliation; and the dimensions of what separated them and what united them were not clear. What is significant in this is that the mutual accusations exceeded in rancour even the bitter propaganda battles waged between Moscow and Peking, at a time when a new wave of factionalism and tribalism again appeared amongst the ideological factions, if one may call them that.

Meanwhile, the Eritrean Nationalist Forces were in a state of perpetual worry for the future of the revolution, and they continued to follow reports of contacts made between the Eritrean Revolutionary Council and the Ethiopian regime, especially the one that happened in Rome. The significant development that came out of the Rome meeting--its' said that all roads lead to Rome--is that it specifically drafted the final decision of the Revolutionary Council about the Eritrean issue. Informed sources had expressed their view that the two representatives of the Eritrean Liberation Front (Revolutionary Council) had

consented to the principle of self-rule on the condition that it would belong to them wholly and completely in the event that they could liquidate the others. The sins of the Rome meeting were no less evil than the sins of speaking positively about Ethiopia, since the People's Front for the Liberation of Eritrea had proclaimed its rejection of a separate solution. It issued a statement, distributed in Rome itself, and in no time the differences with the Revolutionary Council became so serious that the mutual battle of words turned into a trial by arms in the areas that were controlled by the two Fronts.

A question stands out of all this violent sequence: Where was Mr Sabi in all this?

Of course he was not absent from the scene, for the numerous press interviews warned of the danger of an international struggle over the Eritrean problem. As if he wanted to prove that his presence was necessary even after he had disappeared from view after March 1979 when he was removed from the chairmanship of the Eritrean Liberation Front (People's Liberation Forces) by the civilian and military organizations comprising the Front. But he continued to work on the political initiative and visited Egypt where he was received by Mr Usama al-Baz who had promised him on behalf of the Egyptian government increased support. This was a result of reports from a military group that was part of Egyptian military intelligence and that had remained a long time on the military bases (in Eritrea) under the guise of the Egyptian medical mission. It was this group that left Eritrea after Mr Sabi was removed from power.

Also a camp was set up for a few individuals who owe a personal allegiance to Mr Sabi in the area near the eastern Sudanese town of Tawkar, which is distinctive in its distance from other Sudanese cities and its proximity to the Eritrean-Sudanese border. However this attempt which had as its goal the formation of a new military arm eventually failed since many of the men left and because the treatment did help the situation, since there was not sufficient military expertise left behind.

So went the intervals of estrangement and rapprochement over the internecine Eritrean fights until recently when the Revolutionary Council met with 'Uthman Sabi's group. Their brothers' meeting the enemy raised a storm of invective amongst the Eritreans. Some said that the circumstances dictated disregarding the conflicts, and some said that the matter was not clear and not what is seemed; each side had its proof to support what it said. The Revolutionary Council then made a statement that continued to depict in both clear and veiled allusions the reactionism of 'Uthman Sabi, and that he was the basic obstacle to national unity, so that the aforementioned rapprochement was a source of disunity in the current state of the Eritrean revolution. But in any event God will join the two groups where meeting between them had once been impossible. This is the language of poetry, not the language of politics, but stranger things have happened!

After 20 years of revolution we find the Eritreans divided between the optimists and pessimists, however they are both most desirous of some open declaration about the course of the revolution. The pessimists only see a warning in the

internecine fighting of liquidation of the armed struggle. The optimists conceive of the recent events as capable of sifting out interests and realities within the revolution after various voices had become jumbled in the endless internecine fighting between various factions of the revolution and contradictory propaganda apparatus, for the coming stage would reveal the real positions of the factions.

If the fate of 4,000,000 Eritreans hangs between the delicate balance in the region or the complex circumstances in their country, it is impossible that that fate will be decided by a swipe of the hand of fate, or by a magic wand in the hands of giants.

The Eritrean issue has an Arab, regional, and international aspect. Its roots are old, a legitimate foundation for struggle from an angle point of view. The thing most indicative of its liberationist nature is that it has continued unremittingly until it overcame the Lion of Judah (Ethiopia) and awakened the slumbering government of Addis Ababa at a time when the cause of Eritrea enjoys the popular and official support and sympathy of the Arabs.

In spite of the many predictions, the assassination of 'Uthman 'Ajib must come as proof of future bad luck for the Eritrean revolution as a whole, especially at this critical and difficult stage. The faction that 'Ajib belonged to continues without respite to insist on the independence of Eritrea and the unity of the Eritrean people. It declared on several occasions its rejections of all solutions that are concluded on behalf of the revolution that Ethiopia has resisted so fiercely. It has even rejected a federal union for the sake of complete independence. It affirmed this in the statement issued by the Eritrean Liberation Front (People's Liberation Forces) at the time of the announcement of 'Uthman 'Ajib's death. When they expressed the view that: "A series of plots were aiming at terminating the entire nationalist cause," and likewise the Eritrean Student Union described the incident by saying "It was only a link in the conspiratorial chain that our nationalist cause opposes."

This is how the Eritreans respond to this incident. How could they do otherwise, when the clouds of a settlement are gathering in the skies of Eritrea?

9587

CSO: 4802

FIRST MILITARY CLASS OF PALESTINIAN BA'TH ORGANIZATION GRADUATES

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 29 Jan 81 pp 1, 11

[Article: "Graduation of the First Palestinian Ba'th Battalion; Graduates Promise President Al-Asad to Continue the Fight Under His Leadership Against Imperialist Conspiracies"]

[Text] The comrades taking part in the Martyr Ahmad al-'Azawi class of the Palestinian organization [within the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party] reaffirmed that they stand behind the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve the objectives of our Arab nation and to wipe out all forms of imperialist conspiracy.

The graduating comrades reaffirmed that they reject the treaties of surrender that attempt to undercut the steadfastness of the Arab country of Syria, the Palestinian Arab revolution and the forces of Arab liberation.

Graduation ceremonies were held yesterday noon, under the patronage of Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], for the first Palestinian Ba'th Party class of the Sa'iqah Organization. The class is called the Comrade Martyr Ahmad al-'Azawi class.

The festivities were attended by Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, commander in chief of the Sa'iqah Organization forces; some members of the national and regional leadership of the Palestinian [Ba'thist] Organization; Comrade Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA]; members of the leadership of al-Sa'iqah; members of the leadership of the Palestine branch of the party; secretaries and members of the Palestinian party people's [as published] leadership and a number of PLA officers.

The ceremony was opened with a minute of silence in commemoration of the lives of the martyrs of the Arab nation, followed by the singing of the ASBP anthem.

Comrade 'Abdullah al-Ahmar, delivered an address in which he conveyed the greetings of the comrade fighter, Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, and the greetings of the members of the national and regional leadership to the graduating comrades.

Comrade al-Ahmar said that this class was the practical translation of the recommendations and decisions of the 13th regional conference of the party which had

begun to produce results by giving political and military qualifications to Arab fighting men, who believe in the essential cause, that is, the cause of regaining the occupied Arab territory and the usurped Palestinian rights.

Comrade al-Ahmar went on to say that this class had received its training in the camps of the vanguards of the people's war of liberation of the forces of al-Sa'iqah. The significance of this is that this class is at the service of all Arab brothers and that these should channel their efforts into militant capabilities to achieve the desired goal, that is, the liberation of Palestinian territory.

Comrade al-Ahmar criticized the old parties to Camp David and the new, that is, the lackey Jordanian regime, which represents a link in the chain of parties to the conspiracy against the cause of our Arab homeland with support from American imperialism and Zionism. He also criticized the stands of the dubious Iraqi regime which, day after day, perpetrates treason and which has turned itself into an instrument in the hands of imperialism to abort the energies of the strugglers in Iraq and to conspire against the elemental cause of the Arab homeland.

In closing, Comrade al-Ahmar reaffirmed the determination of the ASBP and its secretary general, Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic, to continue the struggle and to mobilize the energies of the people to achieve our goals of unity, freedom and socialism, pointing out that our homeland can only be liberated from fragmentation and backwardness and can only counter the vicious imperialist assault against our Arab homeland through a continued pan-Arab struggle.

At the start of the ceremony, the first ranking graduate delivered a statement on behalf of the class in which he pledged to the party and commander to continue on the road of Arab revolution and to block all imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, whatever the difficulties.

The commander of the class gave a speech praising the high degree of competence and skill of the participants in the class, their fine absorption of the training and their excellent ability to perform their mission, to fight and to stand firm to achieve the objectives of the party--unity, freedom and socialism.

The class participants then marched in a military parade led by the Arab and the ASBP color guard. There was also a practical demonstration involving an attack on a simulated enemy vehicle, capturing its occupants, in addition to a demonstration of hand to hand combat training with bayonets.

At the end of the ceremony, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar handed out the graduation certificates to the members of the class.

The members of the class then sent a telegram to Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, which read as follows: "In the name of the participants in the Comrade Martyr Ahmad al-'Azawi class of the Palestinian [Ba'thist] Organization, we proclaim that we stand behind your wise leadership, seeking the guidance of the ideas of our great party, the ASBP, in order to achieve the goals which we have embraced, liberate the occupied territory, eliminate all forms of conspiracy by the imperialists, Zionists and their reactionary

illies, and bring down all capitulatory treaties that try to undercut the steadfastness of the Arab country of Syria, the Palestinian Arab revolution and the forces of Arab liberation." "Comrade leader, we pledge that we will stand firm and maintain our hands on the trigger until we achieve the objectives of our nation for freedom, unity and socialism." "Long live our mission."

8389

CSO: 4802

MUJAHIDIN THREATEN TO INTENSIFY ACTION AGAINST ALAWITES

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Jan 81 p 53

[Article: "The Syrian Mujahidin are Responding to the Crimes of the Regime"]

[Text] Pursuing its plan to terrorize the citizens who are rejecting oppression and revolting against tyranny, the crumbling regime in Syria has embarked on a course of mass murder and cruel slaughter of defenseless citizens without differentiating between men, women and young children.

The killers began with the fathers and relatives of the mujahidin, murdering them in a most mean and lowly manner among their families and at the doorsteps of their homes. Last June, the criminal authorities stormed the home of the martyr Bassam Arna'ut and opened fire on whomever was inside. His brother 'Isam and one of his sisters died. The same month, units of tyranny in the city of Aleppo killed the son of the mujahid Shaykh Muhammad al-Hajjar. The following month, elements of these units raided the home of one of the wanted [Moslem] brothers in Aleppo. When they did not find him, they ordered his father and his brother to come down with them. At the door, the murderers opened fire on them and then fled.

Likewise, the tyrannous regime assassinated the professor and educator 'Abd al-Qadir Khatib and his son, Anis, in spite of the fact that his two brave sons Amin and Iman, had already died as martyrs. God have mercy on them all. The regime also assassinated the lawyer Amin Idlibi, father of the martyr Usamah.

In Sarmada, units of the regime's army murdered al-Haj Sharif al-Shaykh and 'Abd al-Razzaq Darwish, relatives of the martyr Amin al-Shaykh.

The circle of crime widened and the murderers began choosing scholars and prominent personalities among the Muslim people as victims. In Latakia they assassinated Dr Mamduh Julaha, and in Damascus Dr 'Ali al-Saydawi. In Hamah, they killed Dr 'Abd al-Qadir Fuduqji and Professor Khadr Shishlakli, and in Aleppo the blood-suckers assassinated Dr Adham Saffaf and Dr Nazih Zaranji.

The oppressive regime did not desist. It gave no consideration to the people's anger. Rather, it intensified its misdeeds its crimes. It began cutting down dozens of citizens following the successful operations of the Mujahidin. In Aleppo, criminal units carried out the massacre of Maysalun. Fifty citizens who were passers-by at the time were martyred. Then came the massacre of the Tadmur

military prison where hundreds of the most learned, educated and pious youth of the nation died. On the [feast of] 'Id al-Fitr, the murderer Shafiq Qiyad, acting as a slave toward his master, offered to the great tyrant a hundred sons of Mashariqah, who were cut down by the machine guns and cannons of armored cars and tanks. The regime's special units and military intelligence forces in Hamah undertook the killing of 18 martyrs last October, not counting many who were injured and maimed, during a sweep and search operation covering most sections of the unfortunate city.

The Mujahidin Respond

In the face of these crimes, and in the face of this increasing cruelty, the mujahidin had to stop the shedding of the blood of innocent people and cut off the hands of the cowards perpetrating the massacres and slaughter. Thus, at the beginning of last November a group of mujahidin blew up a large automobile filled with explosives in the middle of the Nusayri ['Alawi] village of Salhab, 45 km west of Hamah, and a large number of sectarian criminals were killed or wounded. That was the first warning.

The next day, the Mujahidin distributed a pamphlet explaining the truth of the operation and its motives, and warning the oppressive regime and its military units and henchmen that any massacre of Muslims by the government would be answered with more violent action deep within the Nusayri villages themselves to avenge the innocent people being killed in the streets, homes and clinics.

In its issue number 25, AL-NADHIR--The Voice of the mujahidin in Syria--published a warning to the tyrannical Nusayri sect, which read:

"We have asked you, more than once, to depose Hafiz al-Asad and his brother, and to put an end to this black page in the history of Syria and of your people. You could have done this, but you did not. 'We informed you that we were ready, once you did away with Hafiz al-Asad, to turn over a new leaf in our relations with you, but you did not answer. Instead, many of you exceeded the bounds of common sense in going along with the cruelty of the Asad clan. These massacres of yours in Tadmur, Aleppo, Hamah, Sarmada and Jisr al-Shughur fill the heart with hatred. You are responsible and you will be the losers in the end. Fools can bring down afflictions upon their people.

"Your fate is tied to that of the people of Syria, not to Hafiz al-Asad. Do not place yourselves, your children, your women and your elderly in jeopardy to satisfy the whims of a handful of your fools.

"We have yet done little of what we can do, because we have hoped that wisdom will prevail among you. But if you refuse, you will find out that you have made a mistake. The initiator of evil is responsible for the consequences."

9614

CSO: 4802

HOSPITAL TURNED INTO PRISON

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Jan 81 p 52

[Article: "Syria's Murderer Has Turned a Hospital into a Human Slaughter House"]

[Text] In addition to tens of prisons and detention centers spread throughout all parts of Syria, the bloody sectarian ruling regime has set about opening a new prison in Aleppo's "military hospital, specifically on the 2nd floor of the hospital, in the "ear" section.

Overseeing this "prison-hospital" are the criminals Muhammad 'Id and 'Ali al-Hallaq, along with many of the oppressive regime's myrmidons.

The cruel torture inflicted by the murderers has led to the martyrdom of many of the detainees within a short period of time. On the 22nd of Ramadan (3 August 1980), one of the arrested brothers died after he was tortured for many hours. The indescribably cruel torture continued even after the brother had passed away.

On the 20th of Shawwal (1 September 1980), a teacher of Islamic education, Professor Ibrahim Ahmadah (42 years old, from Ariha in Idlib province) died in the same prison. While he was previously being tortured in the Idlib Intelligence Bureau, he suffered a broken lower vertebra during an attempt to force him into "the closet," which paralyzed him from the waist down. So he was moved to the prison-hospital for treatment! As a result of continuous torture and considerable neglect, the paralysis spread upwards from the lower body. The brother continued to suffer indescribable pain until he passed away.

On the first of the new Hegira year (8 November 1980), witnesses confirm that the criminal Muhammad 'Id assaulted one of the women prisoners, who was in her seventh month of pregnancy. A female passerby in the hospital at that time related that she saw the said criminal, accompanied by several other henchmen, enter the imprisoned woman's cell carrying wine bottles. The woman's screams and cries for help were heard throughout the floor.

9614

CSO: 4802

FIRST ARMED FARMER UNIT GRADUATES IN LATAKIA

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 12 Jan 81 p 11

[Text] Latakia--SANA--A graduation ceremony was held yesterday noon for the first batch of the armed farmer's company in Latakia under the Patronage of Comrade Muhammad Zaydan, secretary of the Latakia branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP].

Participating in the ceremony were members of the leadership of the branch, the president of the Farmer's Union in the province, a representative of the General Federation of Farmers in Syria, Comrade Jamil al-Asad, a member of the People's Council, secretaries of party organizations, heads of people's organizations in the province, and a crowd of citizens.

The ceremony started with the Ba'th anthem, followed by a review of the participating teams, including a practical demonstration covering various arts of combat, including raiding, hand to hand fighting, mounting and dismounting vehicles, mountain climbing and maintenance of various weapons.

Then Comrade Thabit Mu'alla, head of the local workers' economic office delivered a speech on behalf of the party, praising the struggle of farmers throughout history and their sacrifices to eliminate feudalism and achieve national independence.

He then attacked the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab country of Syria, which uses lackey Moslem Brotherhood gangs as tools, stressing that these conspiracies will be wrecked as they run into the rock of steadfastness of the Arab country of Syria under the leadership of the fighting president, Hafiz al-Asad.

Comrade Mu'alla addressed the graduating fighting farmers, appealing to them to be ready to defend the progressive gains and achievements of the revolution, to strike a blow at the hubs of reaction everywhere and to wipe out the remnants of the criminal Moslem Brotherhood gang.

He also criticized the parties to Camp David and the conspiratorial role of King Husayn against the Arab cause.

In his speech, Comrade Mu'alla saluted the country's steadfastness and defiance of the imperialist and Zionist schemes, and greeted the unionist steps between

the two sister countries, Syria and Libya. He praised the friendship agreement between the Arab country of Syria and the Soviet Union.

In closing, he urged the graduating fighting farmers to move firmly along the path set by the program of the party and its secretary general, fighting comrade Hafiz al-Asad; to reinforce the natural alliance with the revolutionary workers, soldiers and intellectuals who are committed to the cause of the masses; and to continue to strive in the fields of agricultural production to make a reality of the slogan "A hoe in one hand and a rifle in the other."

At the end of the ceremony, commemorative gifts were distributed to the first graduates who were trained in this group which was called the al-Salib Brigade.

The armed farmer graduates sent a telegram saluting fighting comrade Hafiz al-Asad and pledging to him that the armed farmer company would play its role fully in defending our party and revolution and protecting its socialist and patriotic accomplishments.

8389

CSO: 4802

IMPROVED APPROACH TO STUDY OF CROP COSTS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Jan 81 p 4

[Article by 'Abd al-Wahab al-Za'im: "A Proper Step to Study the Costs of Basic Agricultural Crops"]

[Excerpt] A decree was issued last week by the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform to form a committee to study the costs of major agricultural crops, such as wheat, barley, chickpeas, corn, cotton, sugar beets, peanuts, tomatoes and other crops.

Although such a decree is issued every year, this year's was different in that it expressed a new position on the part of the party and government in handling and marketing basic agricultural products. In essence, it is aimed at:

Setting crop prices in advance in line with a study of their economic costs based on a genuine and realistic study in which all quarters concerned will participate fully.

Given the importance of this issue, to producers, consumers and to the government departments concerned, TISHRIN wishes to report one of the very heated debates over ways of studying the costs of wheat and barley--two of our most important crops for innumerable considerations.

However, before getting involved with the participants in this heated discussion, let us hear what the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has to say about the committee's tasks and goals.

Decision on Committee is Both Old and New

Dr Hamid Musawkar, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, says: "It is in fact the Supreme Agricultural Council that annually sets the prices for the primary agricultural crops after studying the costs of these crops.

"This year, however, we went further and formed a committee chaired by the director of statistics and planning in the ministry. It includes representatives of the economic committee in the office of the prime minister, the office of agricultural affairs in the ministry, the national farmer's office, the General Federation of Farmers, farmer's unions in the provinces, and various companies and organizations (the General Organization for Sugar, the Syrian Arab Company for Peanut Marketing and Processing, the General Organization for Grain Trading and Marketing, the Cotton Ginning and Marketing Organization, etc.).

"It was also decided to form similar sub-committees in the provinces chaired by the governors with the task of:

"Studying the status and costs of crops in their provinces in line with the classification set for studying these costs: operations, agricultural materiel and management.

"After the costs are studied and consolidated, a profit margin is added in accordance with average production. The committee then submits its study to the Supreme Agricultural Council, proposing an appropriate price."

Dr Musawkar goes on to say:

"The current overall thrust of the government is to raise the prices set for some crops, particularly cotton, since we have sensed a decrease in acreage planted (not in productivity), keeping in mind that the goal in raising crop prices is to stimulate and support productive farmers."

The minister of agriculture emphasizes that the new thing about this committee is not its formation, since similar committees have been formed to study crop prices and have been consulted in past years. What is new is that the council will ratify its proposals and prices."

Control Over the Wholesale Market in the Provinces

On this subject, Dr Musawkar said:

"We support the view of the leadership that it is essential for the state to control the wholesale market in the provinces. We are satisfied with the study that has been submitted in this area, particularly since it was prepared by a body of specialists and experts who have direct contact with these issues. The fact is that this study was prepared (during a period of ?) troubles and difficulties facing the producers. It should be kept in mind that once the leadership takes the step of controlling wholesale markets in the provinces through the vegetable and fruit company (particularly with regard to the principal items used in the average Syrian kitchen, such as potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers), the prices of these commodities will evidently be set in advance in light of a study of their real economic cost. This will protect both consumer and producer from the intervening links of brokers and middlemen."

Committee Will Lay Sound Bases for Crop Costs

Dr Khalil 'Abd-al-Qadir, director of statistics and planning in the Ministry of Agriculture, says:

"I was assigned to chair the committee to study the costs of major crops a short time ago. After the committee met with the participation of all parties concerned, a study was completed on the costs of cotton, wheat, barley, peanuts and sugar beets, as well as chickpeas, corn, potatoes, onions and tomatoes."

Dr 'Abd-al-Qadir has the following comment on the task of this committee:

"This is the first time that sound bases have been laid down for studying the costs of major crops grown on our agricultural land through direct contact with [all] parties concerned and extensive discussions of crop costs from all aspects, including agricultural operations, the value and nature of the materials involved in the production process, and proposed prices."

The director of statistics and planning goes on to say:

"Studying the costs of crops is an operation practiced in the countries of the socialist bloc. It is aimed at protecting both the producer and the consumer, using programmed planning which is based on and respects proper scientific calculation."

8389

CSO: 4802

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

RASHID COMMENTS ON GULF AFFAIRS, AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS

Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 15 Mar 81 pp 3, 4

[Text] Khartoum, March 15 (SUNA)--United Arab Emirates State Minister for Foreign Affairs confirmed that the security of the Gulf was in the hands of its member states and its people.

Exclusively interviewed by SUNA upon arrival here Thursday to take part in the meetings of the Coordination Committee of the Afro-Arab Cooperation, Sheikh Rashid Bin Abdalla added that this question would be exemplified in the Cooperation Council of the Gulf states that would be established soon to keep the influence of the super powers away from the region.

Sheikh Rashid stated that the super powers had interests in the Gulf and the Gulf was important due to its oil-rich countries and its strategic location. The Gulf states, Sheikh Rashid continued, were aware of this importance and were cooperating together to preserve security of the region and not stimulating the super powers each against the other.

On the establishment of military force within the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Bin Rashid said the Gulf was not threatened by force till now and no one had come to occupy it. He added that the Gulf defence force depended on the cooperation of its states and peoples.

Speaking on the weapon sources Bin Rashid said some countries believed in a one source of weapon while the others believed in the multiplicity of sources. Each one had its advantages, he said, but the last one was not often possible because of certain reasons.

Answering a question on the difficulties facing Arab solidarity, Sheikh Bin Rashid said the failure of solidarity weakened the Arab nation. He added, "we had lost in the recent years a great and a vital source of this solidarity when Egypt withdrew from the Arab world."

Sheikh Bin Rashid went on to say that in spite of differences in viewpoints, the Arabs help each other in hard times.

CSO: 4820

HOUSING SHORTAGE, HIGH RENTS OUTLINED

London 8 DAYS in English 28 Feb 81 p 57

[Article by Pam Callaghan]

[Text]

SHORTAGES of accommodation in Abu Dhabi have sent rents up dramatically in the last year. Godfrey Mitchell of estate agents Cluttons told *8 Days*: 'In 1980 rents went up approximately 50 per cent. The rises have been as much as 100 per cent with long leases, to make up for previous underpricing.' For example, one three-bedroom flat overlooking the Corniche recently rented for UAE dir100,000 (\$27,000) per year was previously priced at half that figure. The prevailing price for a European standard flat with central air conditioning is \$25,000, while a two-bedroom flat is around \$17,500, and villas are going for between \$32,000 and \$110,000. The choice of property on the market, however, is severely limited.

Godfrey Mitchell predicts the shortage could last up to two years — until the completion of new buildings. Building activity is only now recovering from a two-year slump. George Aramha of estate agents Cassells, however, believes more properties will come on the market inside eight months, as some buildings already completed only await approval by the government.

He considers that the present shortage was aggravated by the 1979 obligation on

oil companies operating in the emirate to have head offices in Abu Dhabi. Cassells estimate the rental value of property in Abu Dhabi to have gone up on average 25 per cent a year, the exceptions being 1978 (35 per cent) and last year — when it topped 40 per cent. Oil companies, they note, are beginning to take three- or four-year leases.

Office space rose on average around 10 per cent last year. For example, an office of 100 square metres let for between \$10,000-\$14,000 last year would go for \$16,000 this year. Azmi Abdul Talib, director of the Abu Dhabi town planning department, told *8 Days*: 'The problem is that there is a shortage of land on Abu Dhabi island — particularly when you take into account that it is a capital city, and a centre for diplomats, bankers and large companies. We are planning to ease the problem by adding new areas of land both inside the island and outside.'

On the island itself, certain areas have been designated for demolition and rebuilding. Off the island, more land will be allocated for residential areas and connected to Abu Dhabi by bridges.

STUDY INDICATES LARGE GAS FIND

London 8 DAYS in English 28 Feb 81 p 46

[Text]

THE PRELIMINARY studies of a deep offshore gas field have just been published in the 1980 annual report of ADMA-OPCO, the major offshore operating oil company in the UAE. The results so far indicate substantial reserves.

The Kufi gas reserves were first located in 1978. Drilling of the first well was carried out in April 1979 and the final tests were completed by September of that year. Gas was discovered at a depth of 3,750 metres and extends 825 metres down.

Dr Alan Horan, ADMA-OPCO's general manager, told *8 Days*: 'We've got to do quite a lot more work before we assess what we've got. But the significance of the find is in the long term, because the UAE has a substantial store of gas which can be used either internally or be liquefied and exported as LNG. I don't think the gas will be used within the next five years.'

Meanwhile ADMA-OPCO has set up its second gas gathering scheme, in which the

gas is pumped from the Zakum field, transported to Umm Sheif and then sent onshore for liquefaction. ADMA-OPCO no longer flares off its associated gas.

According to Alan Horan, ADMA-OPCO aims to produce around 15.5m cu m of gas a day.

The UAE government intends to use its gas in the ambitious petrochemical industrial complexes planned for the country. In addition to the Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company for Offshore Gas, the Abu Dhabi Gas Industries Company collects onshore gas in the emirate. In Dubai at Jebel Ali, Dugas, a much smaller operation, was built to supply gas for the Dubai aluminium smelter.

While Abu Dhabi's gas exploitation was increased in 1980, oil production was cut back from 534m barrels in 1979 to 494m, as part of the UAE's conservation policy. Exports were also cut -- from 525m barrels in 1979 to 489m in 1980.

CSO: 4820

BRIEFS

UNIGULF PETROLEUM ENTERS 30 YEAR CONTRACT WITH AJMAN--There are definite possibilities of oil in Ajman, claims Unigulf Petroleum Incorporation. The company, established in 1979, has recently entered into a contract with the Ajman Government for the next 30 years. Executive Vice President of the company, Bailey, said the physical survey in Ajman has already been carried out and the drilling will start at the end of this year. The seismic survey and the geophysical interpretation were carried out between November 1980 and January 1981. Seismic data processing and the interpretation of the initial seismic sections and tapes has already been done but further interpretation to physically locate the best drilling targets, both offshore and onshore, is still being undertaken. The interpretation work has produced attractive carbonate prospects very similar to the Forman Exploration Company's gas discovery, known as the Hamariya block, which produced 15.3 million cubic feet of gas per day when tested, Bailey disclosed. This will be their first venture in the Middle East. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 11 Mar 81 p 7]

NEW PROVISIONS FOR EXPATRIATE WORKERS--UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, has issued a decree amending certain provisions in the recruitment law for expatriates. The amendments, to be implemented retrospectively from December 22, comprise the following: Foreign contract employees, their wives and up to 3 children under 18 years will get tourist class tickets. Female employees will not get tickets for their husbands or children unless the husband is proved unfit for employment. If the husband is dead, a female employee will receive tickets for herself and her children; The grant of tickets may be deferred for one contract year to an employee who is not permitted to go on his vacation due to the exigencies of work. According to a spokesman of the Ministry, Labour Attaches particularly in missions in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt, will have to ensure that only qualified or skilled manpower is recruited and job-seekers are protected from exploitation by unlicensed employment agencies. Health Attaches will have to ensure that the recruited labour is in good health and free from communicable diseases. The visas procedures have already been tightened. Visit visas and resident visas have been stopped for the time being. About 500 illegal immigrants representing various nationals have been deported for breach of residence law. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 11 Mar 81 p 7]

BNOC TO AID IN DUBAI OIL SEARCH--Dubai (Opecna)--An agreement is to be signed shortly between ARCO Dubai and the state-owned British National Oil Company (BNOC) to help Dubai in its search for more oil, WAM, Emirate's news agency reports, quoting "Gulf News" newspaper. The agreement, under which BNOC will for the first

time be engaged in exploration for oil in the Middle East, provides for an equity share in the oil concession held by Arco Dubai, a subsidiary of the American oil company Atlantic Richfield. ARCO was granted the oil concession last year under an agreement signed with Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Mar 81 p 11]

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

EEC TO STEP UP TRADE AND AID--Work on stepping up the European Community's trade and aid links with the Yemen Arab Republic is expected to begin shortly in Brussels. This follows a recent visit to Sanaa by a high-powered delegation from the EEC executive commission, which studied the country's aid requirements and possible areas of EEC action. EEC sources told 8 DAYS that although the Community was not yet ready to conclude a formal trade and economic cooperation agreement with North Yemen, a determined effort would be made to upgrade the EEC's financial and food aid to that country in the coming year. EEC action in North Yemen is expected to focus on developing the rural and agricultural sector, with particular emphasis on the production of cereals, development of forestry resources and the laying out of rural roads, and so on. Previous EEC aid to the country, in 1977, included 1.3m EUA (1EUA = \$1.4) granted to the ministry of agriculture, and 700,000 EUA used by North Yemen to draw up a feasibility study on the Wadi Rasyan basin. EEC aid worth another 1.3m EUA was given in 1979 for the Taizz research centre. European for EEC aid are likely to visit North Yemen in the coming months for further details. North Yemen has been a recipient of EEC food aid programmes since 1970, and is expected to receive about 10,000 tonnes of cereals in 1981. The Community is, however, looking for more information on the country's utilisation of EEC aid in milk powder and butter oil, and the possibility of integrating EEC aid with current EEC-financed rural development programmes. Both sides will also study the possibility of stepping up North Yemenese exports to the EEC. These were valued at about 5m EUA in 1978, compared to EEC exports totalling 252m EUA. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English 21 Mar 81 p 38]

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